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December 23, 2012
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Man battles council over bus lane fine

BY LAUREN ARCHELL
lauren.archell@lutononsunday.co.uk

A GARDENER has been threatened with action from bailiffs after failing to pay a penalty for driving in a bus lane - even though he can prove that he did not own the car at the time.

Andrew Godly, of Albion Street, Dunstable, currently owes £600 to Luton Borough Council, despite obtaining written evidence about the vehicle's ownership from the DVLA.

The trouble started when 46-year-old gave away his green Nissan Micra on October 18, 2011. The following day, the car was snapped driving in a bus lane in Bury Park, and a £30 fine was issued by the authority to Mr Godly.

When Mr Godly told the council he was no longer the owner of the car, he was asked to supply the name of the new owner, which he couldn't do as the log-book had been sent to the DVLA.

Mr Godly then appealed the fine with the council, which was rejected, and lost a subsequent tribunal.

The authority then obtained a



FEAR: Mr Godly says he is scared that bailiffs will come to his home

county court order against him and he has since been threatened with bailiffs entering his home and taking his property.

A worried Mr Godley contacted his MP Andrew Selous, who managed to obtain a letter from the DVLA, which read: 'I can confirm that a disposal notification was received at DVLA on October 24 2011, indicating that the vehicle had been disposed of on October 18 2011'.

Mr Godly said: "I can't believe how this incident has blown up

out of all proportion.

"Every day I come home from work wondering whether my door will have been kicked in by bailiffs.

"The fine has escalated, and the last letter I received says that I owe around £600.

"I have refused, and will continue to refuse to ever pay this money and I am completely innocent - it was not me."

Mr Selous said: "Clearly there has been a timing issue here, but it has been proved that my constituent had contacted the DVLA as soon as possible, as required. I would ask that Luton Borough Council show some seasonal goodwill and waive the fine."

A council spokesman said: "Basically, Mr Godly chose to take his case to tribunal.

"The independent adjudicator's decision is final and there is no right of appeal other than for Mr Godly to ask for a judicial review of the evidence presented at the original tribunal.

"There is nothing more the council can do and Mr Godly remains liable to pay the penalty."



HONOUR: Professor Ashraf Jawaid receives his OBE from Prince Charles

Professor given OBE by Prince Charles

THE Deputy Vice Chancellor of the University of Bedfordshire has received an OBE for his contribution to the education system.

Professor Ashraf Jawaid, 60, was presented with the award by Prince Charles at Buckingham Palace.

Speaking after the ceremony, Professor Jawaid said: "It was exciting and very humbling, but Prince Charles put me at ease. Of course, you need to remember there is a team behind anyone's success and this is very true in my case too."

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PCC warns of 'big challenges to come'

BY LUI STRACCIA
lui.straccia@lutononsunday.co.uk

THE new Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) said he was 'surprised' to receive a Christmas card from the Prime Minister but added the Government's announcement on police funding 'is no early Christmas present'.

Ollie Martins, who took up his post last month, warned there were still 'big challenges' to overcome as a result of the £3.1 million budget cuts announced for 2013/14 by the Government in 2010.

Mr Martins was speaking after the Government announced how this year's police settlement would be allocated across the 43 forces in England and Wales. Bedfordshire will receive £69.910m for 2013/14.

Mr Martins said: "The figures for policing were in line with our expectations, and I am relieved that the Home Secretary has kept her promise to protect the main police fund this year.

"While figures have not been announced for future years, it is expected that grant funding will be reduced and while I am sure we can balance the budget in the coming year, I will have my work cut out in the future in order to maintain performance and deliver the required savings.

"If the Government would simply apply its own funding formula



WARNING: PCC Ollie Martins said there are 'big challenges' to come

Bedfordshire would be £1.1M better off in 2013/14 and £22.5M over the last eight years. That is a considerable amount in anyone's book and I will campaign for parity for Bedfordshire.

"My priority is to keep residents safe and I have made it very clear that I will fight any future cuts to our budget at the highest level.

"In order to bridge the gap, the force has been collaborating

closely with Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire to deliver even better quality and more cost-effective services.

"Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary has publicly recognised that the policing in Bedfordshire is good value for money, and I will continue to do all that I can to tackle this financial predicament effectively."

In September we reported that around 150 police roles were set to be cut over the next four years as Bedfordshire Police Authority - which has now been replaced by the PCC role - looked to make savings of £7m.

Under the Government's comprehensive spending review, the force are expected to lose £14m from their budget by 2017/18, in addition to the £19m of savings required by 2013/14.

According to a report by the authority, half of the potential job losses will come from senior roles where 50 positions are to be axed.

This includes two chief superintendents, seven superintendents, five chief inspectors, 16 inspectors and 20 sergeants.

Legislation prevents police officers from being made redundant but the authority plans to evoke Regulation A19 of the Police Pensions Regulations 1987, which forces an officer to retire if they have '30 years of pensionable service'.

Teenager robbed at knifepoint in kids' play area

A TEENAGER was robbed as he walked through a play area.

The victim, 18, and his 17-year-old friend were approached in the Purley Centre, Marsh Farm, by two men who made threats on Wednesday.

Both friends ran away in different directions, but the 18-year-old slipped on the wet grass and was confronted by both robbers.

They dragged the victim to his feet, threatened him with a knife before kicking him several times and taking his iPhone and bag which contained personal items including cash before running from the scene towards Axe Close.

The officer in charge of this investigation, Detective Sergeant Emma James, is keen to trace witnesses to the robbery or anyone who can help identify those responsible.

DS James said: "Close to where the robbery happened there is a block of flats and it is possible that residents in the area may have seen or heard something that could help this investigation. We believe someone did shout out and ask the victim if he was alright after the offenders left the scene and I am keen to trace this person or anyone else who can help identify the offenders and would urge them to contact the police."

The first robber is described as a black man, 18 years old with a medium build and short black hair. He wore a hooded padded jacket with fur around the hood and black jogging bottoms.

The second is described as a black man, 18 years old with a stocky build. He wore a black hooded top and black jogging bottoms.

Anyone with information can contact DS James on 01582 394445, or Bedfordshire Police on 101, or text information to 07786 200011, or Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111.

newsbriefs

'DANGEROUS' BUILDING NOW SAFE
LONG-awaited repair work has now finished on a building that was dangerous to the public.

The building in High Street South, Dunstable, on the main crossroads, has had scaffolding on it while Central Bedfordshire Council traced its owner to carry out repairs.

The council said its efforts to get the owner to repair the building were 'difficult', but after protracted negotiations and legal difficulties,

contractors appointed by the owners of the building began extensive repairs at the end of May.

This included rebuilding of several parts of the building.

CUSTOMER SERVICES TO CLOSE
CENTRAL Bedfordshire Council's customer services centres will be closed from 4pm tomorrow and will re-open on Thursday.

If you need essential information

over the festive period, such as a reminder about bin collections and for all addresses, phone numbers and opening times, visit www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

On New Year's Eve, offices will close from 4pm and re-open on Wednesday, January 2.

The emergency out-of-hours line, which is specifically for housing repairs, homelessness and environmental health concerns like noise nuisance, is 0300 300 8098.

CEMETERY ROBBERS HIT STUDENT
A STUDENT was robbed of his mobile telephone while walking through a cemetery.

The 17-year-old victim was taking a short-cut through Rothsey Road Cemetery, Luton, at 3pm on Sunday when he was approached by two men and punched in the head until he handed over his Apple iPhone 4s.

Anyone with information relating to the robbery can contact Bedfordshire Police on 101.

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Sofa company 'ruined' Christmas for family

BY LAUREN ARCHELL
lauren.archell@lutononsunday.co.uk

A WOMAN suffering with cancer has been left devastated after she was told the sofa she ordered wouldn't be delivered in time for Christmas.

Daphne Lloyd-Cooke, 51, of Jill Jenkins Court, Whipperley Ring, Luton, forked out £780 for the settee from SCS, especially so she could spend the special time with her family and friends in comfort.

After ordering the item from the store in Hatters Way Retail Park, Luton, on November 8, she was guaranteed delivery in time for Christmas Day.

When the sofa had not arrived by Monday, Mrs Lloyd-Cooke phoned the company, who again assured her that the delivery would arrive today.

But on Wednesday, she received a phone call from the company telling her that she would not receive the dark leather sofa until January.

An emotional Mrs Lloyd-Cooke said: "This has completely ruined my Christmas."

"I've spent large periods of this year in hospital having major operations, which has meant that my family and friends haven't been able to

come and visit me.

"Now that I am out of hospital, I was really looking forward to spending a comfortable Christmas surrounded by all my loved ones, and had picked the sofa specially."

"I made sure I visited the store early in November. I was assured time and time again that I would have the item for Christmas, ready for when everyone arrived."

"Even when they said it would arrive on December 23 I thought it was cutting it a bit fine, but they promised me."

"I feel very let down. I've spent a lot of money with the company, and a lot of time and energy making phone calls and chasing people up, but I've never had an apology from anyone."

A spokesman from SCS said: "A very small percentage of orders were unable to be delivered by the supplier."

"This was discussed with Mrs Lloyd-Cooke, who agreed an allowance and to accept loan goods over the Christmas period. This was to avoid further inconvenience over this festive period."

"The loan goods were agreed to be delivered on Friday afternoon, which we arranged for a 'special contractor' to do."



UPSET: Daphne Lloyd-Cooke said her Christmas has been ruined after she was told her sofa wouldn't arrive for December 25

Have your say on council housing

RESIDENTS are being asked for their views on who should get priority for council or housing association properties in the future.

Luton Borough Council is updating its housing allocation policy due to the increasing number of applications combined with a shortage of properties available locally. There are currently 8,037 people on the

housing waiting list in Luton.

The review of the policy was also prompted by a change in the law which allows the council to arrange for homeless families seeking help to be given a property in the private sector and not necessarily in a council or housing association flat or house.

Another proposed change

to the policy is only accepting applications from households with a local connection to Luton. The current policy allows applicants from anywhere in the world, which means there are people on the waiting list with no realistic chance of ever getting housed by the council.

Residents can complete a survey where they will be

asked their opinions on who should get priority for council or housing association properties based on a range of criteria including housing need, local connections, personal circumstances and past behaviour.

To have your say go to www.luton.gov.uk/housing and then click on 'Review of housing allocation procedure'.

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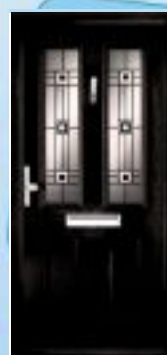
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'Lessons learned' after L&D inquiry

BY LAUREN ARCHELL

lauren.archell@lutononsunday.co.uk

AN inquiry into how a 'well-respected and popular' healthcare assistant allegedly abused vulnerable stroke patients has concluded that there were collective failures made by the hospital, police and councils.

Ameet Mohabeer, of Butely Road, Luton, was charged in June 2011 with 17 counts of sexual abuse dating back to 2008, but killed himself before the case went to trial.

Luton on Sunday exclusively broke the story about the alleged abuse of male patients on Ward 17 of Luton & Dunstable Hospital, which is said to have often happened when intimate personal care was being carried out.

The first allegation of abuse by Mr Mohabeer was reported by a patient in November 2009, but the case was closed after police were unable to bring a prosecution.

After being suspended for just one day, Mohabeer was allowed to return to work and no precautions were taken in relation to him working alone with vulnerable patients.

The inquiry reported a 'sense of disbelief in the ward from staff who worked with the alleged

perpetrator', adding there were 'still some staff who do not believe he would have done what has been described'.

But the author of the inquiry report, Derek Law MBE, said the alleged perpetrator may have operated in a 'clever way', as he was able to spend reasonable amounts of time alone with patients, either behind drawn curtains or in the bathroom and shower rooms.

Professor Michael Preston Shoot, who is the independent chairman of the Luton Adult Safeguarding Board, said: "Lessons have been learnt and we would like to extend our deepest apologies and sympathies to the victims and their families."

Pauline Philip, chief executive of the L&D, said: "We have accepted all recommendations made in the report."

"The majority, including introducing measures to check vulnerable patients are safeguarded, and encouraging staff to raise any suspicion, have already been implemented."

"It has been a devastating experience for everybody who works to provide the best possible services for our patients, and ensure their safety."



ALLEGATIONS: L&D worker Ameet Mohabeer, who pleaded not guilty to sexually assaulting patients

Knife wielded in cash robbery

A TEENAGER was forced to walk to a cashpoint and withdraw cash at knife-point.

The victim, 19, was walking in an alleyway that runs between Furness Avenue and Langdale shops, in

Dunstable, on Monday at 6.15pm on his way home from work.

Four men approached him and threatened him with a knife before frogmarching him to the cashpoint at the Tesco Express.

The robbers took the cash and ran after punching the victim in the face. The officer in charge of the police investigation, PC Tim Worden, is keen to speak to anyone who can help identify the

robbers. Anyone with information relating to this crime can contact PC Worden on 01582 394434, or Bedfordshire Police on 101, or Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111.

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EXPERIENCE: Sergeant Chris Leah, right, with Tim Heidenblut

German officer has praise for our cops

A GERMAN police officer has spent the last two action-packed weeks working with Bedfordshire Police.

Tim Heidenblut, a trainee detective with his home force of Hessen, near Frankfurt, was a guest of Bedfordshire's Automatic Number Plate Recognition Intercept team.

The 24-year-old, whose training will be finished in six months, said: "I've found that the force is not so different from my own – the issues are quite similar. We have a similar structure which deals with a very broad range of work within each area."

Work on platforms to improve station

BY LAUREN ARCHELL

lauren.archell@lutononsunday.co.uk

FACILITIES at Legrave train station are being upgraded, to make the platforms 'safer' for customers.

Work has begun on introducing a fence on platform 3 to secure passengers movement when fast trains are running past, allowing more space to access and exit the platform, as well as installing extra shelters and rearranging seating.

First Capital Connect (FCC) has also revealed that it has bid

for a grant from the Department for Transport.

This is in order to double the amount of spaces for secure bicycle storage at the station.

During the works, the train operator has also assured customers that normal platform access will be maintained.

Contractors will be working during off peak hours to limit disruption to passengers.

A spokesman for First Capital Connect said: "This work will make Legrave a safer, more pleasant station for our customers using the Thameslink route.

"This is not to say that there are any problems with safety at Legrave station at present.

"The security fence is just a precautionary measure to ensure that there are no incidents in the future.

"We are committed to looking after all our stations and ensuring that they remain fit for purpose and up to standard for our customers, so this is work is a part of that.

"The work is scheduled to finish in mid January.

"We anticipate that it will finish a lot earlier than that."



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Vandal-proof glass to be used at bus stops

BY LAUREN ARCHELL
lauren.archell@lutononsunday.co.uk

A NEW type of reinforced glass panel is to be trialled in bus shelters, in a bid to prevent them being smashed by vandals.

The toughened laminated plastic, which is being introduced by Luton Borough Council, would make it more difficult for the stops to be damaged and needing replacing - which in turn would save the authority some much needed cash.

In the last financial year, around £17,000 has been spent by the council on maintaining their 133 bus shelters, which included repair work, painting and replacing glass and polycarbonate panels.

According to the council, the average cost of a new shelter is around £4,500 and the cost of replacing a single glass panel is in the region of £300.

In the last year alone six of the town's shelters were reported to have been targeted by vandals, with multiple panes of glass being smashed on each occasion.

The authority has then had to spend money on each stop to clear up the broken glass to make the area safe, and install a number of new panels.



EXPENSIVE: Luton Borough Council has said it is 'disappointed' that some of the newly installed bus shelters have already been damaged

A council spokesman said: "As the highway authority, we are responsible for installing, upgrading and maintaining the bus shelters."

"As part of our programme of improving facilities and infrastructure for public transport, this year we have installed 72 new bus shelters which have replaced the old existing shelters across the town."

"It is extremely disappointing that some of these shelters have been vandalised, especially as

we are trying to improve the street scene and local environment with the installation of realtime information shelters."

"This year six shelters have been damaged, with glass panels being smashed."

"These have been made safe and we are in the process of replacing the glass."

"We are hoping to trial a new type of glass panel which is toughened with laminated plastic, which should make it more difficult to damage them."

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your letters

Immigration again to the fore

SIR – During the past few days immigration has sprung up as an issue which is very relevant to both present and future.

The last census, which was ten years ago, paints a picture that most of us are familiar with – an overwhelming majority of us accept where we are and are trying to get on with life.

There are good, bad and ugly in all communities and misdeeds of few in no way reflect the general character of a given community.

Politically, it is an accepted fact by all those who were in control at relevant times took their eyes of the immigration situation, when enlargement of the European Union was a cherished cause and everybody wanted to be the first one to open the door.

More tougher restrictions should have been placed on EU migrants, but it did not happen and we have large numbers of people in our towns and cities, who were not born in the UK.

Any significant migration from the Indian subcontinent stopped some 40 years back, and only dependants such as husbands, wives, and elderly parents have come in to join them.

Again no legislation opened doors for this group of people – it was all done by going through a very complex immigration code. Students from all over the world come to the UK.

All of them pay very high fees, which must be welcome for our economy, most of them

are here for short periods and they return to their countries at the end of their studies.

The EU faces many challenges in its present shape.

We need to think before deciding to commit more of our resources to this set-up long term.

We cannot go back and change history, but we can see this the near future we will be opening our doors to another Eastern European County.

Let us welcome them but at a well controlled rate of entry.

Very few are willing and able to talk about EU migration, who provides the bulk of the immigration into the UK.

Akbar Dad Khan
Biscot Road, Luton

Government must listen to us

SIR – The NHS is under great pressure from the amount of people using it at the moment.

Staff do the best they can with what little they have despite being under great pressure to meet targets from the Government wanting the right boxes being ticked.

Nothing else matters to them, patient care is not a priority to them otherwise they wouldn't keep closing hospitals down and trying to pull the wool over our eyes saying that services will be more streamlined?

Maybe it's all part of a cynical ploy to overload the NHS so it does break and then the Government will have the excuse to justify their calls for privatisation.

The majority of people do not want this

though, we want our NHS to stay a free health service and to improve and get back to providing for the patients who do need treatment.

I think it is funny how we have money to send soldiers abroad to fight wars that we don't want but not to look after the NHS.

38 Degrees have shown they have a lot of support from the people.

Lets hope the Government will listen to the people – after all, they are meant to work for the people, not the corporations or the banks.

Lee Wyatt
Lyneham Road, Luton

Deputy PCC controversy

SIR – I do have some sympathy with Liberal Democrat Councillor David Franks when he criticises the newly elected Police Crime Commissioner Olly Martins for appointing his deputy and other staff without any selection process.

Surely the coalition Government is to blame for this undemocratic fiasco which was masked by public apathy and lack of knowledge about the candidates?

It's certainly not in the public's best interest for the police force to be controlled by inexperienced politicians like the Labour candidate Olly Martins who unbelievably insulted 8,675 voters in his acceptance speech.

He did this by saying they were nasty and should crawl back into the hole where they came from.

Sir Graham Bright, the former Luton South MP, who was elected the commissioner for Cambridgeshire, has appointed one of his cronies as his deputy.

It is a job for the boys.

I feel that this ill thought-out policy by this increasingly out of touch Government is not only politically stupid but will not improve the competence and morale of our shrinking police force, nor the public confidence in them.

P Bree
West Hill Road, Luton

Suicide nurse questions

SIR – As others, I've seen and read all about the poor nurse Jacintha Saldanha, her suicide and the bashing of the two radio station presenters.

This I have no problem with, but what I find is that no one knows what happened in that hospital once they had found out that this phone call had been put through to Kate's ward.

I cannot see that this one phone call would or could have triggered this poor lady to hang herself.

There has not been too much coming out of the hospital from Lord Glenarthur or any other public relation from the hospital.

They seem to be keeping a low profile and letting the radio station take all of the flak.

Perhaps they are worried the Royals will take their sicknesses to another hospital.

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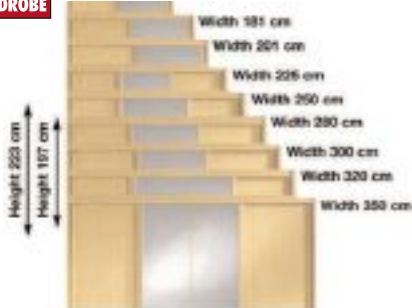
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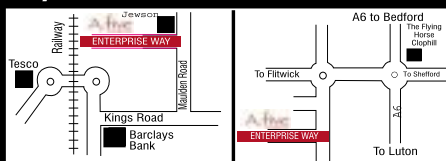


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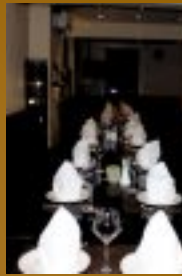
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Scheme is getting ex-con on right path

LIFE for Joe* seemed as though it was only going in one direction.

By the age of just 11 he had already entered the criminal justice system following his first conviction.

By the time he turned 24, Joe had served ten prison sentences.

As a prolific burglar, he was referred to the Bedfordshire Integrated Offender Management (IOM) scheme to turn his life around.

Joe is currently one of the offenders under the PI programme of the IOM, which is an intensive community order package for prolific non-violent serious offenders, who are willing to admit their previous crimes and move on with their lives.

Currently, Joe must wear an electronic GPS tag which monitors his whereabouts 24 hours a day, and is under a strict curfew.

In addition to this, he also has an exclusion order from two associates, receives two weekly police visits as well as attending twice weekly supervised sessions with his probation officer.

Working with the IOM drug team, his past tests have shown negative for substance use since

FOLLOWING his admission of more than 150 crimes and ten prison sentences, 'Joe' needed to take his life in a new direction.

BIANCA CHADDA looks at his story, and how the IOM scheme gave him the help and guidance needed to become a proper family man.

he joined. Part of the programme offers offenders support and guidance to help get them back on the straight and narrow.

Joe has been in contact with an employment worker, who has assisted in finding him an apprenticeship and college course in order to gain qualifications for his future employment. He and his family have also been given help from an IOM accommodation worker, exploring housing options and financial budgeting.

All the guidance the staff members offer means offenders can move on with their life and learn practical skills for a fresh start.

Since his release from prison, Joe and his partner have had another child, giving him the

chance to be present at the birth, and help out with his new-born baby.

He said: "I now have things to look forward to and know that I can have a good life ahead to live. I feel supported in trying to be a hardworking family man."

Joe was recently given the opportunity to meet a victim of one of his burglaries, through a Restorative Justice conference.

He wanted to apologise for his actions and ask for forgiveness from his victim.

This chance proved highly emotional for both parties involved, and demonstrated very clearly the great progress Joe has made with his rehabilitation.

He has now successfully met all the scheme's requirements

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LEADING: Linda Hennigan, the chief executive of Bedfordshire Probation Trust, and right, picture posed by model

during his six month deferred sentence period, and has passed the first major milestone.

Over the past year, crime partnership Bedfordshire Integrated Offender Management (IOM), has been contributing to the Government's 'Rehabilitation Revolution' in the borough by helping offenders ditch a life of crime.

Results have shown that 20 per cent less offenders who were managed under the IOM actually reoffended, resulting in an overall drop of 37 per cent offences county-wide.

In particular, the number of residential burglaries fell by 29 per cent. The IOM's innovative approach to cutting crime

incorporates staff from more than 20 different organisations, including charities, local authorities, the police and probation.

They recognise the fact that offenders have multiple problems that cannot solely be addressed by the IOM themselves, and that co-ordination with these other bodies is essential to stop reoffending and protect the public.

All of these contribute to managing persistent offenders who commit multiple crimes and disruptive damage in their community.

Linda Hennigan, chief executive of Bedfordshire Probation Trust and chairman of

Bedfordshire IOM, said: "As the Justice Secretary Chris Grayling said - 'We can't just keep recycling people round and round the system'.

"IOM is different because we intensively manage offenders to change their ways which means less crime and fewer victims of crime.

"For the first time ever, we have police officers, probation officers and other essential support services working under the same roof.

"It's still early days for IOM but we've laid the foundation and hope to achieve even better results in the future."

* We have changed 'Joe's' name to protect his identity.

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MPs can be a law unto themselves

IT would appear we are about as popular as a kangaroo's anus with one of our MPs at the moment.

Nadine Dorries, MP for Mid Beds, is not talking to us. She is unhappy that we do not continually fawn to her greatness and has chosen not to reply to our questions on concerns raised by her constituents.

And when we did ask for a comment on why she will not comment, we received a letter from her libel lawyers, Carter Ruck, faster than a jet powered boomerang. Reaching for their lawyers is nothing new with the rich and the powerful and MPs are powerful - and often rich.

It is used as a form of intimidation of the local press, which unfortunately often works. Look around. There is a subtext that runs if you want me to give you quotes, you have to be nice to me. And as legal exchanges can be expensive, even if the newspaper has done nothing wrong, it is usually easier to take the soft line.

Well we are not those kind of newspapers. We realise we could end up in a trial of the non-bush-tucker variety, where people don't eat anuses so much as talk out of them but so be it.

We were the first newspaper group to call on the now disgraced ex-MP Margaret Moran to resign and got a bit of flak over it. But not many seem to be defending her now.

I remember asking a fairly innocent question of Norman 'Badger' Lamont once and the response was a letter from his lawyers.

Of course Nadine Dorries is also arguing for state legislation over the press and I can see why. MPs could then have direct control over the press without having to resort to the legal muscle of their expensive lawyers. The reality is, of course, away from the glare of the nationals, that local newspapers find it quite difficult to hold politicians and the powerful to account.

And, of course, we sometimes get it wrong, and this newspaper has paid the price, quite literally, for getting it wrong. But despite the Freedom of Information Act and supposedly greater openness, any critical story is often treated with outrage, as though some line of decency has been crossed.

It is also the case that Nadine Dorries can threaten us because of a story she did not like about her daughter working for her, even though at the time she put

us on to her daughter for comment, and the information was on a public website.

Nadine has brought this on herself, by committing to an appearance on I'm A Celebrity without having been granted permission by the powers that be in the Conservative Party, nor her Constituency Association chairman, a fact for which the Conservative whip was temporarily withdrawn.

Of course Nadine herself can be pretty robust in what she says, including about this newspaper, and about me. We don't mind robust debate providing it applies to both sides. We often find, however, that it is about as balanced as a wallaby with one testicle.

In other words, they can give it but they can't take it, unlike the wallaby. This attitude is prevalent in British Politics these days. I am sorry if this offends and don't want to find myself up Crocodile Creek without a paddle but the bottom line is she may be a celebrity but we're not getting out of here.

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Sisters Karen & Suzanne opened the doors to their salon in 1987 thanks to the faith their parents had in their ability. Their Father transformed what was an estate agents into a salon within weeks ready for the Christmas rush. The girls may have been very young at the time but, both agree that their success is due to their hard work & the loyal client base they have built up.

They say they have had some wonderful talented team members over the years too. One, Tracy Ely moved to New York where she paid the girls the huge compliment of naming her own salon after theirs!

The salon on Dunstable Road has recently undergone a refurbishment thanks to Kevin Ellingham who was so generous & worked tirelessly to transform it into a beautiful modern place where clients can relax & be pampered. The girls say this is just what their clients deserve.

They were overwhelmed by the generosity shown to them on their anniversary. The cards, gifts, flowers & messages of support they received made them realise that all their hard work has not only given them the best clients around but these people have become friends along the way.

They are truly thankful to past & present clients & staff for their support & say they hope to continue to work hard at this standard for many years to come!

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Christmas TV GUIDE

PICK OF CHRISTMAS TV AND FILMS

For many families settling down to watch the Christmas telly is an essential part of the season. You've stuffed yourself silly and drank a little bit too much, so what could be better than unwinding on the sofa to view some of the biggest shows of the year? As usual some big guns will be serving up festive specials this year, so we have taken a look at what promises to be a cracker of a line-up...

MR STINK

BBC1, Sunday December 23, 6.30pm

Many of us will be watching Hugh Bonneville as the imperious Lord Grantham in Downton Abbey, but see him here in a slightly different guise – living in a shed. Based on the book written by David Walliams, this family film, also starring Britain's Got Talent winner Pudsey, will get Christmas off to a great start.

THE SNOWMAN AND THE SNOWDOG

Channel 4, Christmas Eve, 8pm

Believe it or not, 30 years have passed since we were all first enchanted by Raymond Briggs' spectacular musical animation The Snowman, which has become as much a part of Christmas as turkey and granny in a cracker hat. Here our cold-hearted hero returns for a second adventure, with a puppy pal.

DOCTOR WHO

BBC1, Christmas Day, 5.15pm

All aboard the Tardis as the Doctor returns for another festive adventure, this time in Victorian London as he takes on the terrifying Snowmen – and Richard E Grant.

CALL THE MIDWIFE

BBC1, Christmas Day, 7.30pm

On the harsh working class streets of 1950s London in winter, the midwives continue to carry out their duties delivering festive babies and warming a few hearts. Rejoin Jenny Lee, Chummy and friends for a real Christmas cracker of a show.

DOWNTON ABBEY

ITV1, Christmas Day, 8.45pm

Join the family and staff as they head off on a Scottish holiday... in the middle of summer. There will be the usual high drama, and attempts from Thomas to win us all over.

EASTENDERS

BBC1, Christmas Day, 8.45pm

So will they or won't they? Max's big day is approaching, but you just know his secret is bound to surface. The big question is, will it be enough to prevent Tanya from marrying him? Oh, and just in case you were wondering, there is the annual Walford Christmas death.

THAT DOG CAN DANCE!

ITV1, Boxing Day, 8pm

We are a nation of dog lovers, so why not have your second helping of performing pooch Pudsey? Here he helps owner Ashleigh, Sharon Osbourne and Bill Bailey to judge doggy dancing. What more could you want in a Christmas show?



FESTIVE FILMS ON THE BOX

NATIVITY!

BBC2, Christmas Eve, 3.55pm

Hobbit hero Martin Freeman is a reluctant producer of his primary school's nativity play. But a lie he tells about his Hollywood producer ex-girlfriend coming to see the show gets out of hand, and soon he is working hard not to let the children and the affable Mr Poppy down. Cue hilarity.

TOY STORY

ITV1, Christmas Day, 1.25pm

The first fully computer-generated feature film has been delighting children and adults alike for 17 years. Yes, 17 years. Join Woody, Buzz and the rest of the gang as they try to foil the plans of a mean toy-torturing bully.

LORD OF THE RINGS: FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING

Channel 4, Christmas Day, 5.40pm

Just the ticket for that post-dinner lull on the sofa. JRR Tolkien's band of adventurers as they begin their quest to get rid of the powerful ring. The sequels are also on Channel 4 – the second on Boxing Day at 6.55pm and the third on Saturday, December 29 at 7.20pm.

HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON

BBC1, Boxing Day, 5pm

Teenage Hiccup is part of a Viking tribe that believes dragons are to be slain on sight. But Hiccup has the ability to 'whisper' to the dragons, and befriends wounded Night Fury dragon Toothless.



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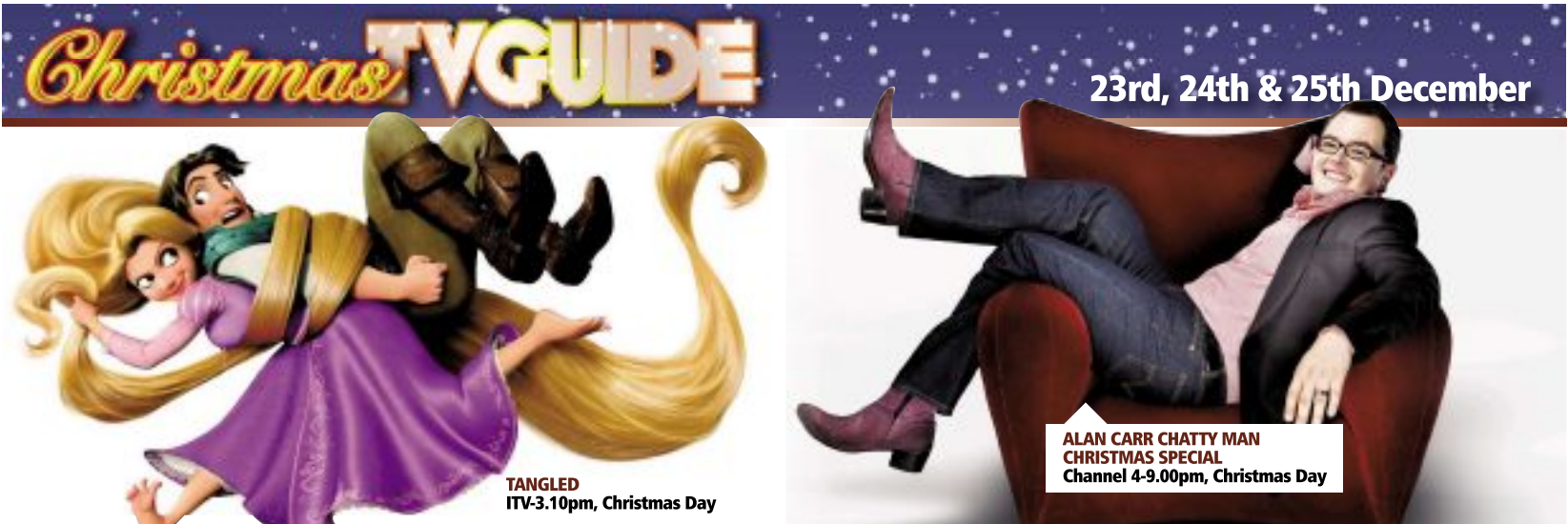
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SUNDAY DECEMBER 23

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast (S) **7.30** Match of the Day (R/S) **9.00** David Suchet: In the Footsteps of St Paul (S) **10.00** Fern Britton Meets... Dionne Warwick (S) **11.00** Only Fools and Horses (R/S) **12.10** 'Allo 'Allo! (R/S) **12.55** Nigel Slater's 12 Tastes of Christmas (R/S) **1.30** The Borrowers (R/S) **2.55** **FILM: Cool Runnings** (1993) (S) **4.30** Songs of Praise (S) **5.05** News (S) **5.30** Countryfile (S) **6.30** Mr Stink (S) **7.30** **Antiques Roadshow** (S) **8.30** **Loving Miss Hatto** Drama inspired by the true story of classical pianist Joyce Hatto. (S) **10.00** News (S) **10.25** Match of the Day 2 (S) **11.25** **The Graham Norton Show** With Dustin Hoffman, Billy Connolly, Matt Smith and Jennifer Saunders. (R/S) **12.15** **FILM: Grumpy Old Men** (1993) (S) **1.55** Weatherview (S) **2.00** Sign Zone: Film 2012 (R/S) **2.30** Holby City (R/S) **3.30** Nigel Slater's 12 Tastes of Christmas. Double bill. (R/S) **4.30** News (S)

BBC2

6.00 Cbeebies **9.30** 12 Again (R/S) **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites (S) **11.30** The Great British Bake Off Christmas Masterclass (R/S) **12.30** **FILM: The Preacher's Wife** (1996) Romantic fantasy starring Denzel Washington and Whitney Houston. (S) **2.40** Escape to the Country (R/S) **3.25** Flog It (R/S) **4.25** **FILM: First Knight** (1995) (S) **6.30** The Morecambe and Wise Christmas Show: 1973 (R/S) **7.35** **Victoria Wood with All the Trimmings** (R/S) **8.30** **Dragons' Den Christmas Special** A former dinner lady offers her take on Christmas cake, complete with Brussels sprouts. (S) **9.30** **James May's Toy Stories: Flight Club** (S) **10.30** **The Sarah Millican Television Programme** (S) **11.00** **Victoria Wood: Seen on TV** (R/S) **12.30** QI (R/S) **1.00** **FILM: French Film** Romantic comedy with Hugh Bonneville. (S) **2.25** **FILM: They Knew What They Wanted** (1940) **3.50** This is BBC Two (S)

ITV1

6.00 Engie Benji (R/S) **6.35** Signed Stories (R/S) **7.05** Fleabag Monkeyface (R/S) **7.30** Almost Naked Animals (R/S) **8.00** Big Time Rush (S) **8.30** Fort Boyard (S) **9.25** Dinner Date (S) **10.20** Columbo (R/S) **12.30** **FILM: Carry on Cowboy** (1965) (S) **2.15** All Star Family Fortunes (R/S) **3.00** The Mctfy Show (R/S) **4.05** **FILM: Twins** (1988) (S) **6.05** You've Been Framed! (R/S) **6.35** News (S) **7.00** **Ade's Christmas Crackers** Ade Edmondson reviews the best and worst of Christmas TV over the last 60 years. (S) **8.00** **The Cube** With presenter Melanie Sykes and dancer Ashley Banjo. (S) **9.00** **Joanna Lumley: The Search for Noah's Ark** The actress crosses three continents in search of the truth behind the story of Noah's Ark. (S) **10.30** News (S) **10.45** **Take Me Out Celebrity Christmas Special** (R/S) **11.45** **Rugby Highlights** (S) **12.45** **Jackpot** (S) **2.45** River Monsters (R/S) **3.35** Nightscreen (S)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The Hoobs. Double bill. (R/S) **7.05** Prep & Landing (R/S) **7.50** The Bear (R/S) **8.20** The Art of the Snowman and the Snowdog (S) **8.25** Frasier. Double bill. (R/S) **9.30** Sunday Brunch (S) **12.05** The Big Bang Theory. Double bill. (R) **1.00** Simpsons (R/S) **2.00** Deal Or No Deal (S) **3.00** 100 Greatest Toys with Jonathan Ross (R/S) **6.05** News (S) **6.20** The Art of the Snowman and the Snowdog (S) **6.25** **The Snowman** (R/S) **6.55** **FILM: Night at the Museum** (2006) (R) **9.00** **Homeland** Following the dramatic events at the mill, Carrie must decide where her heart really lies. (S) **10.30** **Peep Show** Jeremy, desperate to avoid living with Superhans, sparks up an old relationship with Mark's sister Sara. (S) **11.00** **FILM: In Bruges** (2008) (R/S) **1.00** American Football Live (S) **4.45** Brief Encounters of the Sporting Mind. Double bill. (R/S) **5.00** Freesports on 4 (R/S) **5.25** Unreported World: Burma (R/S)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake **10.00** Chinese Food in Minutes (R/S) **10.20** Dallas (R/S) **11.15** Once Upon a Time. Double bill. (R/S) **1.10** **FILM: The Christmas Consultant** (2012) Festive drama starring Caroline Rhea and David Hasselhoff. (S) **2.55** **FILM: It's a Very Merry Muppet Christmas Movie** (2002) David Arquette, Whoopi Goldberg, Joan Cusack, Matthew Lillard, and William H Macy in a seasonal Muppet movie. (S) **4.40** **FILM: Christmas with the Kranks** (2004) Comedy with Tim Allen and Jamie Lee Curtis. (S) **6.40** **FILM: The Family Man** (2000) Romantic comedy with Nicolas Cage, Téa Leoni and Don Cheadle. (S) **8.55** News (S) **9.00** **FILM: Bad Santa** (2003) Black comedy starring Billy Bob Thornton, Tony Cox and Lauren Graham. (S) **11.00** **FILM: Superbad** (2007) (S) **12.35** To Be Announced **1.15** Supercasino **3.55** House Doctor (R/S) **4.25** House Doctor (R/S) **4.50** Rough Guide to Weekend Breaks (R/S) **5.05** Milkshake

CHRISTMAS EVE

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast (S) **9.00** David Suchet: In The Footsteps of St Paul (S) **10.00** The Two Ronnies Christmas Special (R/S) **11.00** Only Fools and Horses (R/S) **12.25** **FILM: The Santa Clause** (1994) (S) **2.00** **FILM: The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian** (2008) (S) **4.15** **FILM: Merry Madagascar** (2009) Seasonal short with Ben Stiller and Chris Rock. (S) **4.35** The Gruffalo's Child (R/S) **5.05** **FILM: Lady and the Tramp** (1955) (S) **6.45** **FILM: A Christmas Carol** (2009) Animation starring Jim Carrey and Gary Oldman. (S) **8.15** Merlin (S) **9.00** EastEnders (S) **9.35** Outnumbered Christmas Special (S) **10.15** Mrs Brown's Boys Christmas Special (S) **10.45** The Vicar of Dibley (R/S) **11.30** News (S) **11.45** Midnight Mass from Leeds Cathedral (S) **1.05** **FILM: Serendipity** (2001) (S) **2.30** Weatherview (S) **2.35** News (S)

BBC2

6.00 Cbeebies **9.10** **FILM: The Nightmare Before Christmas** (1993) (S) **10.20** **FILM: Who Framed Roger Rabbit** (1988) Comedy adventure with Bob Hoskins and Christopher Lloyd. (S) **11.55** The Great British Bake Off Masterclass (R/S) **12.55** Wartime Farm Christmas (R/S) **1.55** Springwatch Guide to Otters (R/S) **2.55** Equestrian: Olympia 2012 (S) **3.55** **FILM: Nativity!** (2009) Family comedy starring Martin Freeman. (S) **5.35** Dad's Army (R) **6.15** Carols from King's (S) **7.30** **Morecambe and Wise: Song and Dance Sketches** (S) **8.30** Open All Hours (R) **9.00** Porridge Christmas Special (R) **9.40** The Many Faces of... Ronnie Barker (S) **10.40** The Two Ronnies: The Studio Recordings (R/S) **11.10** Being Ronnie Corbett (R/S) **12.10** QI (R/S) **12.40** An Island Parish (R/S) **1.10** **FILM: The Turtles of Tahiti** (1942) Light-hearted family drama with Charles Laughton and Jon Hall. **2.40** This is BBC Two (S)

ITV1

6.00 Babar and the Adventures of Badou (R/S) **6.30** The Hive (R/S) **7.00** Fleabag Monkeyface (S) **7.30** Horrid Henry (S) **8.00** **FILM: Scooby-Doo and the Cyber Chase** (2001) (S) **9.25** **FILM: Dennis** (1993) (S) **11.05** Dinner Date (S) **12.30** The Chase (R/S) **1.30** Doc Martin (R/S) **3.30** Rod Stewart's Christmas (R/S) **4.45** **FILM: How the Grinch Stole Christmas** (2000) Children's fantasy based on the Dr Seuss classic with Jim Carrey. (S) **6.40** News (S) **7.00** Emmerdale (S) **7.30** **Coronation Street** Will Peter's heartfelt words have the desired effect on Leanne? (S) **8.30** **The Spice Girls Story: Viva Forever!** The definitive story of one of pop music's biggest girl groups. (S) **10.00** News (S) **10.15** Christmas Carols on ITV (S) **11.15** The Jonathan Ross Show Christmas Special (S) **12.45** The Unforgettable Danny La Rue (R/S) **1.40** Pushing Daisies (R/S) **2.25** Nightscreen (S)

CHANNEL 4

6.10 **FILM: The Rugrats Movie** (1998) (R) **7.25** Famous Fred (R/S) **7.55** Ivor the Invisible (R/S) **8.20** The Art of the Snowman and the Snowdog (S) **8.30** **FILM: A Christmas Carol** (2001) (R/S) **10.05** The Big Bang Theory. Double bill. (R/S) **11.00** The Muppets Christmas Carol (R/S) **12.40** Simpsons (R/S) **1.45** Deal Or No Deal's Big Christmas Dinner (S) **2.50** **FILM: Home Alone 2** (1992) (R/S) **5.05** Simpsons (R/S) **5.40** Hollyoaks (S) **6.10** News (S) **6.30** Heston's Fantastical Christmas (R/S) **7.30** **Ice Age: A Mammoth Christmas** (R/S) **8.00** **The Snowman and the Snowdog** (S) **8.30** **Stephen Fry: Gadget Man Christmas Special** (S) **9.00** **8 Out of 10 Cats Christmas Special** (S) **10.00** Peep Show (S) **10.30** **Friday Night Dinner** (S) **11.05** **The Inbetweeners Marathon** (R/S) **2.15** Rude Tube Special 2010 (R/S) **4.05** Made in Chelsea (S) **5.00** 90210 (S)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake **9.40** The Family Recipe (R/S) **9.50** Dallas (R/S) **10.40** Once Upon a Time. Double bill. (R/S) **12.35** **FILM: Mistletoe Over Manhattan** (2011) (S) **2.25** **FILM: Trading Christmas** (2011) (S) **4.10** **FILM: Scrooge - A Christmas Carol** (1951) Adaptation of Dickens's classic story with Alastair Sim and Kathleen Harrison. (S) **6.00** Rolf's Animal Christmas (S) **7.00** **World's Biggest Pets** Prepare yourself for looming seven-foot-tall dogs, rabbits that weigh the same as a five year old and the biggest pet on the planet. (S) **8.00** **A Right Royal Year** (R/S) **9.00** **Eddie Stobart's Christmas Cracker** The iconic Eddie Stobart trucking company returns for a seasonal special. (S) **10.00** **FILM: The Thomas Crown Affair** (1999) (S) **12.15** NCIS (R/S) **1.15** Supercasino **3.55** House Doctor (R/S) **4.20** Housebusters (R/S) **4.45** The Great Artists (R/S) **5.10** Michaela's Wild Challenge. Double bill. (R/S)

CHRISTMAS DAY

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast (S) **9.00** The Gruffalo (R/S) **9.25** Peter Rabbit's Christmas Tale (R/S) **9.50** **FILM: First Flight** (S) **10.00** Christmas Day Eucharist (S) **11.00** Only Fools and Horses (R/S) **12.15** Shrek the Halls (R/S) **12.40** **FILM: Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa** (2008) Animated sequel with Ben Stiller and Jada Pinkett Smith. (S) **2.00** Top of the Pops Christmas (S) **3.10** **FILM: Shrek Forever After** (2009) (S) **4.35** **FILM: Room on the Broom** Animation with Gillian Anderson and Rob Brydon. (S) **5.15** Doctor Who (S) **6.15** Strictly Come Dancing Christmas Special (S) **7.30** **Call the Midwife** (S) **8.45** EastEnders (S) **9.45** **The Royle Family Christmas Special** (S) **10.45** News (S) **11.00** The Vicar of Dibley (R/S) **11.40** On Christmas Night (S) **11.45** Have I Got a Bit More News for You Christmas Special (R/S) **12.30** **FILM: Cold Mountain** (2003) (S) **2.55** Weatherview (S) **3.00** News (S)

BBC2

6.00 Cbeebies **8.45** Attenborough and the Giant Egg (R/S) **9.45** Attenborough's Ark: Natural World Special (R/S) **10.45** Carols from King's (R/S) **12.00** **FILM: On the Town** (1949) **1.35** **FILM: Singin' in the Rain** (1952) Classic Hollywood musical with Gene Kelly and Debbie Reynolds. (S) **3.15** Cenerentola (S) **5.25** Sister Wendy and the Art of the Gospel (S) **6.25** 50 Years of Bond Cars: A Top Gear Special (R/S) **7.30** Dad's Army (R) **8.00** **Blackadder's Christmas Carol** (R/S) **8.45** **The Choir: A Year with the Military Wives** A look back as the women of the choir visit 10 Downing Street, perform at the Golden Jubilee, win a Classical Brit and even launch a number one Christmas single. (S) **9.45** QI XL (R/S) **10.30** **The Sarah Millican Television Programme** (R/S) **11.00** **The Christmas No.1 Story** (R/S) **12.00** TOTP2: Christmas 2012 (R/S) **1.30** **FILM: The Hunchback of Notre Dame** (1939) (S) **3.20** This is BBC Two (S)

ITV1

6.00 Babar and the Adventures of Badou (R/S) **6.30** The Hive (R/S) **7.00** Fleabag Monkeyface (S) **7.30** Almost Naked Animals (R/S) **7.55** **FILM: Scooby-Doo and the Alien Invaders** (2000) Animated adventure with the lovable canine and the Mystery Machine team. (S) **9.25** **FILM: Aladdin** (1993) Animated version of the classic Arabian folk tale. (S) **11.10** The Nation's Favourite Christmas Song (R/S) **12.40** Text Santa (R/S) **1.15** News (S) **1.25** **FILM: Toy Story** (1995) (S) **3.10** **FILM: Tangled** (2010) (S) **5.00** You've Been Framed! at Christmas (S) **5.30** Emmerdale (S) **6.00** Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs at Christmas (S) **7.00** Emmerdale (S) **7.30** **Coronation Street** (S) **8.30** News (S) **8.45** **Downton Abbey** The family receive a warm welcome at Dunage Castle when they visit Rose and her parents in the Highlands. (S) **10.45** **FILM: Couples Retreat** (2009) (S) **12.55** Christmas Carols on ITV (R/S) **1.55** Pushing Daisies (R/S) **2.45** Nightscreen (S)

CHANNEL 4

6.05 Little Wolf (R/S) **6.30** Lost and Found (R/S) **6.55** Father Christmas (R/S) **7.25** The Art of the Snowman and the Snowdog (R/S) **7.30** Simpsons (R/S) **8.20** **FILM: Horton Hears a Whot** (2008) Animated film featuring the voice of Jim Carrey. (R/S) **10.00** Gordon's Christmas Cookalong Live (S) **1.55** The Snowman and the Snowdog (R/S) **2.25** **FILM: Scrooged** (1988) Festive comedy starring Bill Murray and Carol Kane. (R/S) **4.25** Deal Or No Deal's Big Christmas Dinner (S) **5.40** **FILM: The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring** (2001) Award-winning epic fantasy drama based on JRR Tolkien's trilogy. (R/S) **9.00** **Alan Carr Chatty Man Christmas Special** (S) **10.00** Rude Tube (S) **11.05** **C4's 30 Greatest Comedy Shows** (R/S) **1.05** **FILM: Airplane** (1980) (R/S) **2.35** David Blaine - What is Magic? (R/S) **3.20** KOTV Boxing Weekly (S) **3.45** Extreme Sailing Series (S) **4.20** Ultimate Frisbee (R/S) **4.25** International Volleyball (S)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake **8.55** Inside Hollywood **9.00** **FILM: Gone with the Wind** (1939) Epic melodrama with Clark Gable, Vivien Leigh, Hattie McDaniel, Leslie Howard and Olivia de Havilland. (S) **1.15** **FILM: Ben-Hur** (1959) Biblical epic with Charlton Heston and Jack Hawkins. (S) **5.25** **FILM: The Santa Incident** (2010) (S) **7.05** **Eddie Stobart's Christmas Cracker** The iconic Eddie Stobart trucking company returns for a seasonal special. (R/S) **8.00** **Eddie Stobart: Trucks, Trailers and Tinsel** (R/S) **9.00** **Eddie Stobart: Christmas Delivery** (R/S) **10.00** **Greatest Christmas TV Moments** A countdown of some of Christmas TV's greatest moments, including scenes from Morecambe and Wise and The Royle Family. (R/S) **1.00** Supercasino **3.55** House Doctor (R/S) **4.20** Housebusters (R/S) **4.45** The Great Artists (R/S) **5.10** Michaela's Wild Challenge. Double bill. (R/S)

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BOXING DAY

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast (S) **9.00** Cbeebies Panto (R/S) **9.45 FILM: Room on the Broom** Animation with Gillian Anderson and Rob Brydon. (R/S) **10.10 FILM: Madagascar Penguins in a Christmas Caper** (2005) (S) **10.25 FILM: Cars** (2006) (S) **12.40 Mr Stink** (R/S) **1.40 FILM: Happy Feet** (2006) (S) **3.20 FILM: Enchanted** (2007) Fantasy adventure starring Amy Adams and Patrick Dempsey. (S) **5.00 FILM: How to Train Your Dragon** (2010) (S) **6.50 FILM: Alice in Wonderland** (2010) Tim Burton fantasy with Mia Wasikowska and Johnny Depp. (S) **8.30 EastEnders** (S) **9.00 Miranda** Penny threatens to cancel Miranda's Christmas if she does not sort her life out. (S) **9.30 Mrs Brown's Boys Christmas Special** Agnes is determined to put on the greatest show on earth. (S) **10.00 News** (S) **10.20 The National Lottery** (S) **10.25 Match of the Day** (S) **12.00 FILM: Blades of Glory** (2007) (S) **1.25** Weatherview (S) **1.30** News (S)

BBC2

6.00 Cbeebies **9.00** The Great Rift: Africa's Wild Heart (R/S) **10.00** Attenborough: 60 Years in the Wild (R/S) **11.00 BBC Proms** 2012: John Wilson on Broadway (R/S) **1.10 Darcey Bussell Dances Hollywood** (R/S) **2.40 FILM: An American in Paris** (1951) Musical starring Gene Kelly and Leslie Caron. **4.30 Final Score** (S) **5.30 FILM: Miss Potter** (2006) Drama starring Renée Zellweger and Ewan McGregor. (S) **7.00 Morecambe and Wise: Song and Dance Sketches** (R/S) **8.00 Blackpool: Big Night Out** (S) **9.00 The Girl** Alfred Hitchcock sculpted Tippi Hedren into the perfect blonde of his imagination and then became obsessed with the dream of winning the real woman's love. (S) **10.30 FILM: Rebecca** (1940) Psychological thriller starring Laurence Olivier and Joan Fontaine. (S) **12.35** Paul Merton Looks at Alfred Hitchcock (R/S) **1.35 FILM: Mr and Mrs Smith** (1941) **3.05** This is BBC Two (S)

ITV1

6.00 Babar and the Adventures of Badou (R/S) **6.30** The Hive (R/S) **7.00** Fleabag Monkeyface (S) **7.30** Almost Naked Animals (S) **8.00** Horrid Henry (R/S) **8.30** Fort Boyard (S) **9.25 FILM: The Railway Children** (1970) (S) **11.30** Dinner Date (S) **12.45 FILM: Land of the Lost** (2009) (S) **2.25** The Spice Girls Story: Viva Forever! (R/S) **3.55** This is Lionel Richie (R/S) **5.00** News (S) **5.15 FILM: Toy Story 2** Animated comedy sequel with the voices of Tom Hanks, Tim Allen and Joan Cusack. (1999) (S) **7.30 Emmerdale** (S) **7.30 Coronation Street** (S) **8.00 That Dog Can Dance!** Christine Bleakley presents as the nation's most talented dancing dogs perform. (S) **9.00 Doors Open** Adaptation of Ian Rankin's novel with Douglas Henshall, Stephen Fry and Kenneth Collard. (S) **11.15 FILM: Atonement** (2007) (S) **1.25** Celebrity Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? Pantomime Special (R/S) **2.20 FILM: Every Which Way But Loose** (1978) (S) **4.15** Nightscreen (S)

CHANNEL 4

5.25 FILM: Firehouse Dog (2007) (R/S) **7.35** The Art of the Snowman and the Snowdog (R/S) **7.40** According to Jim (R/S) **8.10** Everybody Loves Raymond (R/S) **8.40** The Morning Line (S) **9.40 FILM: Valiant** (2005) (R/S) **11.10** Simpsons (R/S) **12.15** Deal Or No Deal's Big Christmas Dinner (S) **1.15** Channel 4 Racing from Kempton Park and Wetherby (S) **3.40 FILM: Turner & Hooch** (1989) (R/S) **5.40** Simpsons (R/S) **6.10** Hollyoaks (S) **6.55 FILM: The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers** (2002) Part two of the epic trilogy with Elijah Wood, Sir Ian McKellen and Christopher Lee. (R/S) **10.30 FILM: The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo** (2009) The original Swedish adaptation of the best-selling novel by Stieg Larsson. (S) **1.20 FILM: Airplane II: The Sequel** (1982) Comedy sequel, spoofing the disaster movie genre starring Robert Hays and William Shatner. (S) **2.45** The Good Wife (S) **3.25** St. Elsewhere (R/S) **4.15** 90210 (S) **4.55** 90210 (S) **5.35** Deal Or No Deal (R/S)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake **9.40** The Family Recipe (R/S) **9.50** Dallas (R/S) **10.40** Cowboy Builders (R/S) **11.40** Once Upon a Time (R/S) **12.40 FILM: The Greatest Story Ever Told** (1965) Biblical epic starring Max von Sydow, Dorothy McGuire, Charlton Heston and Michael Anderson Jr. (S) **4.30 FILM: Will You Merry Me?** (2008) Seasonal romantic comedy starring Wendie Malick, Cynthia Stevenson and Tommy Lioutas. (S) **6.15** Rolf's Animal Christmas (R/S) **7.15 TV's 50 Greatest Magic Tricks** A countdown of the greatest TV magic tricks of all time. With Paul Daniels and Debbie McGee, and Dick and Dom (R/S) **10.00 Most Shocking Celebrity Moments 2012** This special programme takes a light-hearted look at the 50 most outrageous occurrences in the world of the rich and famous this year. (S) **12.50** Supercasino **3.55** House Doctor (R/S) **4.20** Housebusters (R/S) **4.45** The Great Artists (R/S) **5.10** Michaela's Wild Challenge. Double bill. (R/S)

THURSDAY DECEMBER 27

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast (S) **8.00** Match of the Day (R/S) **9.30 FILM: The Thief Lord** (2006) (S) **11.00 FILM: 101 Dalmatians** (1996) (S) **12.40 News** (S) **1.00** My Family Christmas Special (R/S) **1.50** Shrek: Donkey's Caroling Christmas-Tacular (S) **2.00 FILM: Bolt** (2008) (S) **3.25 FILM: Monsters vs Aliens** (2009) (S) **4.50** Dragons: Gift of the Night Fury (S) **5.15** Wallace and Gromit: A Grand Day Out (R/S) **5.40** Pointless Celebrities (S) **6.30** News (S) **7.00** **Celebrity Mastermind** With actress Crissy Rock, Paralympic gold medalist Hannah Cockroft, BBC correspondent Lizo Mzimba and crime writer Val McDermid. (S) **7.30** **Have I Got News for You** (S) **8.00** **EastEnders** (S) **9.00** **Restless** (S) **10.30** **News** (S) **10.55** **Coldplay: World Tour 2012** (S) **11.55** **FILM: Point Break** (1991) (S) **1.55** Weatherview (S) **2.00** Sign Zone: Snow Babies (R/S) **3.00** Wartime Farm (R/S) **4.00** See Hear (R/S) **4.30** News (S)

BBC2

6.00 Cbeebies **9.00** The Great Rift: Africa's Wild Heart (R/S) **10.00** Attenborough: 60 Years in the Wild (R/S) **11.00 FILM: Viva Knievel** (1977) **12.45** Racing from Chepstow: Welsh National (S) **3.05 FILM: Secretariat** (2010) (S) **4.55** Nature's Weirdest Events (R/S) **5.55 FILM: The Cockleshell Heroes** (1956) (S) **7.30** **Dad's Army** (R) **8.00** **Racing Legends: Stirling Moss** Hollywood actor Sir Patrick Stewart tells the enthralling story of Sir Stirling Moss's glittering race career. (S) **9.00** **World's Most Dangerous Roads** Angus Deayton and Mariella Frostrup drive up Madagascar's eastern coast during the tail end of the rainy season. (S) **10.00** **Mock the Week** (S) **11.00** **Dragons' Den Christmas Special** (R/S) **12.00** **QI** (R/S) **12.30** Hebburn (R/S) **1.00** Twenty Twelve (R/S) **1.30 FILM: This Land is Mine** (1943) **3.10** News (S) **4.30** This is BBC Two (S)

ITV1

6.00 Babar and the Adventures of Badou (R/S) **6.30** The Hive (R/S) **7.00** Fleabag Monkeyface (S) **7.30** Almost Naked Animals (S) **8.00** Horrid Henry (R/S) **8.30** Fort Boyard (S) **9.25** Dickinson's Real Deal (R/S) **10.25** Columbo (R/S) **11.55** Dinner Date (S) **1.10 FILM: Free Willy 3: The Rescue** (1997) (S) **2.50 FILM: Babe** (1995) (S) **4.30** Downton Abbey (R/S) **6.30** News (S) **7.00** **Emmerdale** The police question Debbie. Katie is rushed to hospital after collapsing in the pub. (S) **7.30** **All Star Family Fortunes Christmas Special** Featuring an all-star Emmerdale team. (S) **8.30** **Emmerdale** (S) **9.00** **Panto!** Comedy drama set behind the scenes of a Lancashire pantomime production on its opening night. (S) **10.30** **News** (S) **10.45** **FILM: The Holiday** (2006) Romantic comedy starring Cameron Diaz, Kate Winslet and Jude Law. (S) **1.20** Jackpot247 (S) **3.00** Nightscreen (S) **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show (R/S)

CHANNEL 4

6.30 The Hoobs. Double bill. (R/S) **7.20** Wilde Stories (R/S) **7.45** According to Jim (R/S) **8.15** Everybody Loves Raymond (R/S) **9.45** Frasier. Double bill. (R/S) **9.50** The Big Bang Theory. Double bill. (S) **10.50** Simpsons (R/S) **11.50** **FILM: Astro Boy** (2009) (S) **1.35** **FILM: City of Ember** (2008) (S) **3.25** Deal Or No Deal's Big Christmas Dinner (S) **4.25** Celebrity Come Dine with Me Christmas Special (R/S) **5.30** Simpsons (R/S) **6.00** Hollyoaks (S) **6.30** News (R/S) **7.00** **Mary's Bottom Line** Can Mary sustain a successful business for future generations? (S) **8.00** **The Hoarder Next Door Christmas Special** (R/S) **9.00** **The Restoration Man** (S) **10.00** **FILM: Dorian Gray** (2009) (R/S) **12.10** **FILM: The Girl Who Played with Fire** (2009) (S) **2.25** The Good Wife (S) **3.50** **FILM: Sunset Boulevard** (1950) Billy Wilder's classic with William Holden, Gloria Swanson, and Erich Von Stroheim. (R/S) **5.45** 90210 (S)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake **9.45** The Family Recipe (R/S) **9.55** Dallas (R/S) **10.50** Eddie Stobart: Trucks, Trailers and Tinsel (R/S) **11.50** Once Upon a Time (R/S) **12.50** **FILM: Fiddler on the Roof** (1971) Oscar-winning musical starring Topol and Norma Crane about life in the Jewish community of a pre-revolutionary Russian village. (S) **4.20** **FILM: It's Christmas, Carol!** (2012) (S) **6.10** **World's Biggest Pets** (R/S) **7.05** **Eddie Stobart: Christmas Delivery** (R/S) **8.00** **World's Strongest Man 2012** The 35th running of the international strongman competition from the grounds of the Commerce Casino in Los Angeles. (S) **9.00** **FILM: Dirty Dancing** (1987) (S) **11.05** **FILM: You Don't Mess with the Zohan** (2008) Comedy with Adam Sandler. (S) **1.05** Supercasino **3.55** House Doctor (R/S) **4.20** Housebusters (R/S) **4.45** The Great Artists (R/S) **5.10** Michaela's Wild Challenge. Double bill. (R/S)

FRIDAY DECEMBER 28

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast (S) **9.00** **FILM: The Princess Diaries 2: The Royal Engagement** (2004) Romantic comedy with Anne Hathaway and Julie Andrews. (S) **10.45** **FILM: 102 Dalmatians** (2000) (S) **12.45** My Family Christmas Special (R/S) **1.35** **FILM: Race to Witch Mountain** (2009) Family fantasy adventure starring Dwayne Johnson. (S) **3.10** **FILM: Legend of the Boneknapper Dragon** (S) **3.30** **FILM: The Sorcerer's Apprentice** (2010) (S) **5.10** Wallace and Gromit: The Wrong Trousers (R/S) **5.40** Pointless Celebrities (R/S) **6.30** News (S) **7.00** **Celebrity Mastermind** (S) **7.30** **The One Show on Ice: Best of 2012** (S) **8.00** **Holby City** (S) **9.00** **Restless** (S) **10.30** **News** (S) **10.55** **The National Lottery** (S) **11.00** **Take That: Progress Live** (R/S) **12.20** Weatherview (S) **12.25** SZ: Tamara Drewe (R/S) **2.05** James May's Toy Stories (R/S) **3.05** Countryfile (R/S) **4.05** News (S)

BBC2

6.00 Cbeebies **9.05** The Great Rift: Africa's Wild Heart (R/S) **10.05** Attenborough: 60 Years in the Wild (R/S) **11.05** **FILM: The Lady Vanishes** (1938) **12.40** **FILM: The Thirty Nine Steps** (1935) **2.05** **FILM: Notorious** (1946) **3.45** Flog It (R/S) **4.30** **FILM: The Four Feathers** (2002) Drama with Heath Ledger and Kate Hudson. (S) **6.30** Nature's Weirdest Events (R/S) **7.30** **Blackadder the Third** (R) **8.00** **Racing Legends: Colin McRae** (S) **9.00** **World's Most Dangerous Roads** Hugh and Jessica head out on a terrifying road trip through the former Russian state of Georgia. (S) **10.00** **QI** (S) **10.30** **Andy Parsons Gruntled Live** Politically inspired bemoanments and personal anecdotes from one of Britain's sharpest comedians. (S) **11.30** **Never Mind the Buzzcocks** (R/S) **12.00** Hebburn (R/S) **12.30** Twenty Twelve (R/S) **1.30** **FILM: Abbott and Costello Meet Captain Kidd** (1952) **2.40** News (S) **4.35** This is BBC Two (S)

ITV1

6.00 Babar and the Adventures of Badou (R/S) **6.30** The Hive (R/S) **7.00** Fleabag Monkeyface (S) **7.35** **FILM: The Perfect Man** (2005) (S) **9.25** Tipping Point (R/S) **10.25** May the Best House Win (R/S) **11.20** Dinner Date (S) **12.45** **FILM: Doc Hollywood** (1991) (S) **2.45** **FILM: Babe: Pig in the City** (1998) Family adventure starring Magda Szubanski and James Cromwell. (S) **4.30** **FILM: Peter Pan** (2003) (S) **6.35** News (S) **7.00** **Emmerdale** Cain accuses Moira of trying to make him jealous. (S) **7.30** **Coronation Street** (S) **8.00** **You've Been Framed!** (R/S) **8.30** **The Corrie Years** Special programme looking at some of the memorable stories that took place around Christmas time on the cobbles. (S) **9.00** **It'll Be Alright on the Night** Presented by Griff Rhys Jones. (S) **10.00** **News** (S) **10.15** **FILM: Gremlins** (1984) (S) **12.15** Jackpot247 (S) **3.00** **FILM: Dave** (1993) (S) **4.50** Nightscreen (S)

CHANNEL 4

6.25 Sall Mall (R/S) **6.30** The Treacle People (R/S) **6.40** The Hoobs (R/S) **7.05** Wilde Stories (R/S) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond (R/S) **8.00** Frasier. Double bill. (R/S) **9.05** The Big Bang Theory. Double bill. (S) **10.05** Simpsons (R/S) **11.05** **FILM: Planet 51** (2009) (S) **12.45** **FILM: Zulu** (1964) (R/S) **3.30** Deal Or No Deal's Big Christmas Dinner (S) **4.30** Simpsons (R/S) **5.25** Hollyoaks. Double bill. (S) **6.30** News (S) **7.00** **My Big Fat Gypsy Christmas** (R/S) **8.00** **Jamie & Jimmy's Food Fight** Club Gary Barlow pops in to cook steak and ale pie, and the boys head to Belgium for the booze-off. (S) **9.00** **The 50 Funniest Moments of 2012** Stacey Solomon, Rob Beckett, and a sackful of comedians take a look back over 2012. (S) **11.05** **Friday Night Dinner** (R/S) **11.40** **2012: Mashed** (S) **12.45** **FILM: The Girl Who Kicked the Hornets' Nest** (2009) (S) **3.10** **FILM: Niagara** (1953) (R/S) **4.35** 90210 (S)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake **9.40** Chinese Food in Minutes (R/S) **9.55** Dallas (R/S) **10.50** Eddie Stobart: Trucks, Trailers and Tinsel (R/S) **11.55** World's Biggest Pets (R/S) **12.55** Once Upon a Time (R/S) **1.50** **FILM: Mrs Miracle 2: Miracle in Manhattan** (2010) (S) **3.40** **FILM: A Carol Christmas** (2003) (S) **5.20** **FILM: Santa Junior** (2002) Fantasy comedy with Lauren Holly, George Wallace and Judd Nelson. (S) **7.05** **Eddie Stobart: Trucks and Trailers** (R/S) **8.00** **World's Strongest Man 2012** (S) **9.00** **The Mentalist** The CBI team investigate the murder of an estate agent with former gang ties. (S) **10.00** **Castle** Castle compels with Detective Demming in a race to solve a murder. (S) **11.00** **Castle** (S) **11.55** **Inside Hollywood** (R) **12.00** Supercasino **3.50** Motorsport Mundial **4.20** Divine Designs (R/S) **4.45** The Great Artists (R/S) **5.10** Michaela's Wild Challenge. Double bill. (R/S)

(R) Repeat (S) Subtitles

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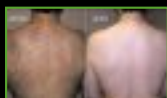
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QUIZ OF THE YEAR...

How many of the events of 2012 can you remember?

1. Which multinational company has promised to pay £20million in tax in the next two years, after it was revealed it has only paid £8.6m in corporation tax in 14 years despite making £400m in the UK in 2011?
2. In October a Government competition for the future running of the West Coast Main Line railway was scrapped after a host of failings were discovered. Which company won the competition, only to find it would have to do it all again?
3. Which horse retired this year after it became one of the greatest of all time, winning 14 races out of 14?
4. Former Conservative MP Louise Mensch sparked a by-election when she resigned, in which Northamptonshire town?
5. The top three countries in the final Olympic medals table were USA, China and GB. Which country finished fourth?
6. Who won this year's X Factor?
7. Psy topped the charts after his song Gangnam Style became an internet sensation. The song is about a region in which Asian country?
8. Jessica Ennis and Mo Farah both won gold on August 13th 2012, dubbed Super Saturday. Who was the third athlete to win gold in the Olympic Stadium on the same evening?
9. To celebrate the Diamond Jubilee, three places – one in England, one in Scotland and one in Wales – were given city status. One point for each you can name.
10. Which horse won this year's Grand National?
11. Who did Barack Obama beat to win the US Presidential Election?
12. What group featuring Kerry Katona announced that they would reform?
13. Which MP caused a stir by entering the I'm A Celebrity jungle?
14. What is the name of London's new cable car?
15. Who did Andy Murray beat in the final when he won the US Open, and for a bonus point, what was the score in the final set?

Answers: 1. Starbucks 2. First Group 3. Frankel 4. Corby 5. Russia 6. James Arthur 7. South Korea 8. Greg Rutherford 9. St Asaph (Wales) Perth (Scotland) Chesham (England) 10. Neptune Collings 11. Mitt Romney 12. Atomic Kitchen 13. Nadine Dorries 14. Emirates Air Line 15. Novak Djokovic, 6-2.



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Christmas TV GUIDE

IT'S PANTO TIME

OH YES IT IS! Oh no it's not! Oh yes it is! Well anyway you get the idea... Listed below is a guide to the local pantomimes gracing our stages this festive season.

Aladdin

The Alban Arena Running until January 6

The time has come for The Alban Arena's amazing pantomime; Aladdin, to begin. Although shows during the early period of the run have almost sold out, as you can treat yourself and others to the hottest ticket in town with the perfect remedy for the post-Christmas blues as there are seats remaining later in the run. CBeebies' favourite Mister Maker (Phil Gallagher), Shaun Williamson (best known for 'Barry' in Eastenders) and many more top quality performers are warming up to present to you the tale of Aladdin in this year's fun, fantastic, family pantomime. Take a magic carpet ride to The Alban Arena and book your tickets now as they're flying out the door!

To book, call the Alban Arena Box Office on 01727 844488 or visit www.alban-arena.co.uk



Rapunzel

Luton Library Theatre Running until December 28

Life seems jollier and more colourful, there are all kinds of tasty things to eat and drink and, if you're lucky, there will be presents!

But there's one other thing that marks Christmas out as not only a special but a magical time.

A visit to the theatre to see a Full House show guarantees an adventure in a world of make-believe and magic - with a touch of spectacle and sparkle thrown in for good measure.

Last year, the Bedfordshire-based company brought the story of the Snow Dog to family audiences in Luton; this Christmas they're back with a new take on the Brothers' Grimm fairytale, Rapunzel.

But you can forget any thoughts of Gothic Germanic castles and dark, creepy forests; the setting of this Rapunzel is more Midsomer Murders than Frankenstein's laboratory.

The village green in Brimblebottom is at the heart of the community and that's where you'll find the Brimblebottom Ladies.

The ladies do all the things that you would expect of an upstanding group of

local stalwarts; they make jam they create floral displays and they gossip. Just at the moment, however, they are trying to raise funds to get the village clock, situated in a tower overlooking the green, working again. Unbeknownst to them, a wicked witch is holding a feisty young lady captive in the tower (not only that but it looks as though she is short of a pair of scissors up there).

Observing all the goings-on are a pair of bouncing bunnies. The bunnies narrate the action and tuck into a tasty snack of the Brimblebottom Ladies' floral arrangements while they're at it.

Visit www.lutonlibrarytheatre.com or call the box office on 01582 547474 or 01582 878100 for ticket and performance details.



Snow White and the Seven Dwarves

The Grove Theatre, Dunstable Running until January 6

Hi Ho! Hi Ho! It's off to panto we go! The most magical fairytale of them all comes to Dunstable over the festive season!

The beautiful Snow White, a Wicked Queen, a handsome Prince, a Good Fairy, an evil Henchman and of course the Magnificent Seven, combine to present this most magical pantomime.

Sue Holderness, most famously known for playing the role of Marlene Boyce in Only Fools and Horses, joins the Grove as the Wicked Queen in this year's pantomime. Complete with a full company of seven dwarfs, stunning scenery, energetic dancing, magical special effects, a fabulous musical score and supporting cast of singers, dancers and babes, this is sure to be a Christmas that will be remembered by all the family. Tickets cost £22.50 and £21 for concessions

To book, call the box office on 01582 602080 or visit www.grovetheatre.co.uk

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29th, 30th & 31st December

Christmas TV GUIDE

**PRINCE OF PERSIA:
THE SANDS OF TIME**
BBC1-8.30pm New Years Eve

SATURDAY DECEMBER 29

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast (S) **10.00** Saturday Kitchen (S) **11.30** Nigel Slater's New Year Suppers (R/S) **12.15** Football Focus (S) **1.00** Formula 1: 2012 - What a Year (S) **2.00** Olympics 2012: A Golden Games (R/S) **3.00** Olympics 2012: Through the Lens (S) **3.30** Sport Relief 2012: The Final Score (S) **4.30** Final Score (S) **5.45** Celebrity Mastermind (S) **6.15** A Question of Sport: Christmas Special (S) **6.45** Superstars 2012 (S) **8.15** **The National Lottery: Secret Fortune** (S) **9.10** **News** (S) **9.30** **Mrs Brown's Boys Christmas Special** It may be a time for peace and goodwill, but there is trouble brewing in the Brown household this Christmas. (R/S) **10.00** **Mrs Brown's Boys Christmas Special** Agnes Brown is determined to put on the greatest show on Earth. (R/S) **10.30** **Match of the Day** (S) **12.00** The Football League Show (S) **1.15** Weatherview (S) **1.20** **News** (S)

BBC2

6.00 Cbeebies **12.15** **FILM: Flight of the Navigator** (1986) (S) **1.40** **FILM: Flubber** (1997) Children's comedy starring Robin Williams and Marcia Gay Harden. (S) **3.05** Escape to the Country (R/S) **4.05** Flog It (R/S) **5.05** John Le Mesurier: It's All Been Rather Lovely (R/S) **6.05** Clive Dunn: A Tribute (R/S) **6.45** **FILM: Dad's Army** (1971) Feature-length version of the classic sitcom starring Arthur Lowe. (S) **8.15** **Climbed Every Mountain: The Story Behind The Sound of Music** Sue Perkins travels to Salzburg, Ellis Island and Vermont to discover how the family behind the film made a living in America as the Trapp Family Singers. (S) **9.15** **FILM: The Duchess** (2008) Period drama starring Keira Knightley and Ralph Fiennes. (S) **11.00** **QI XL** (R/S) **11.45** **God Bless Ozzy Osbourne** (R/S) **1.20** **FILM: Carry On England** (1976) Classic comedy with Kenneth Connor and Windsor Davies. **2.45** This is BBC Two (S)

ITV1

6.00 Babar and the Adventures of Badou (R/S) **6.35** The Hive (R/S) **7.05** Fleabag Monkeyface (R/S) **7.25** Almost Naked Animals (R/S) **8.05** Horrid Henry (R/S) **8.30** Fort Boyard (S) **9.30** Dinner Date (R/S) **10.30** Dickinson's Real Deal (R/S) **11.30** The Unforgettable Leonard Rossiter (R/S) **12.10** Holiday Home Sweet Home. Double bill. (S) **2.10** **FILM: Carry on Screaming** (1966) (S) **4.00** Midsomer Murders (R/S) **6.00** **News** (S) **6.30** 30 Years of CITV (S) **7.30** **I Love You've Been Framed** (S) **8.30** **Dale's Great Getaway** TV favourite Dale Winton presents a fun-filled Christmas spectacular. (S) **9.30** **FILM: Love Actually** (2003) Romantic comedy with Hugh Grant and Keira Knightley. (S) **10.30** **News** (S) **10.45** **FILM: Love Actually** (2003) (S) **12.20** **FILM: Parenthood** (1989) Comedy drama with Steve Martin and Dianne Wiest. (S) **2.25** Jackpot247 (S) **3.00** In Plain Sight (R/S) **3.40** Nightscreen (S)

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Sail Mali (R/S) **6.05** The Treacle People (R/S) **6.15** The Three Worlds of Gulliver (R/S) **7.55** The Morning Line (S) **8.45** **FILM: Space Chimps** (2008) (S) **10.35** **FILM: Garfield 2: A Tale of Two Kitties** (2006) (R/S) **12.20** Simpsons (R/S) **1.30** C4 Racing from Newbury and Doncaster (S) **3.30** Deal Or No Deal's Big Christmas Dinner (S) **4.25** **Celebrity Come Dine with Me**. Four episodes. (R/S) **6.35** **News** (S) **6.50** Stephen Fry: Gadget Man Christmas Special (R/S) **7.20** **FILM: The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King** (2003) Final part of the epic fantasy adventure trilogy starring Elijah Wood and Sir Ian McKellen. (R/S) **11.10** **FILM: Wuthering Heights** (2011) Film adaptation of Emily Brontë's classic novel starring Kaya Scodelario and James Howson. (S) **1.35** **FILM: Chocolat** (2000) Romantic drama with Juliette Binoche, Johnny Depp and Judi Dench. (S) **3.40** 90210 (S) **4.20** 90210 (S) **5.00** Deal Or No Deal (R/S)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake **9.40** Chinese Food in Minutes (R/S) **10.00** Meerkat Manor (R/S) **10.30** Dallas (R/S) **11.25** Eddie Stobart: Trucks and Trailers (R/S) **12.25** Once Upon a Time (R/S) **1.25** **FILM: It's a Very Merry Muppet Christmas Movie** (2002) David Arquette, Whoopi Goldberg, Joan Cusack, Matthew Lillard and William H Macy star in this seasonal Muppet movie. (S) **3.10** **FILM: Grounded** (2006) (S) **4.55** **FILM: Richie Rich's Christmas Wish** (1998) Comedy with David Gallagher, Eugene Levy and Martin Mull. (S) **6.30** **FILM: Snow White** (2001) Fairy tale starring Kristin Kreuk and Miranda Richardson. (S) **8.10** **News** (S) **8.15** **World's Strongest Man 2012** (S) **9.15** **FILM: Stephen King's Bag of Bones** (2011) Horror based on Stephen King's 1998 award-winning novel starring Pierce Brosnan. (S) **12.20** Supercasino **4.00** Michaela's Wild Challenge (R/S) **4.25** The Great Artists (R/S) **4.50** Rough Guide to Islands (R/S) **5.05** Milkshake

SUNDAY DECEMBER 30

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast (S) **8.05** Match of the Day (R/S) **9.40** **FILM: Eight Below** (2006) Adventure drama starring Paul Walker and Bruce Greenwood. (S) **11.30** Snow Babies (R/S) **12.40** Countryfile (R/S) **1.40** **FILM: Bedknobs and Broomsticks** (1971) Classic Disney fantasy starring Angela Lansbury. (S) **3.30** Call the Midwife (R/S) **4.50** Songs of Praise: Celebrating 2012 Big Sing (S) **5.30** Wild Weather in 2012: West (S) **6.00** **News** (S) **6.30** **Celebrity Mastermind** (S) **7.00** **Countryfile** (S) **8.00** **Antiques Roadshow** (S) **9.00** **Ripper Street** A young woman is found brutally murdered, the hallmark signs of the Ripper upon her. (S) **10.00** **News** (S) **10.25** **Match of the Day 2** (S) **11.25** **Sport Relief 2012: The Final Score** (R/S) **12.25** **FILM: Open Range** (2003) (S) **2.40** Weatherview (S) **2.45** Sign Zone: Climbed Every Mountain: The Story Behind the Sound of Music (R/S) **3.45** Holby City (R/S) **4.45** **News** (S)

BBC2

6.00 Cbeebies **9.30** 12 Again (R/S) **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites (S) **11.30** The Great British Bake Off Masterclass (R/S) **12.30** EastEnders (R/S) **3.30** Space Dive (R/S) **5.00** **FILM: Force 10 from Navarone** (1978) World War II action starring Robert Shaw and Harrison Ford. **7.00** **James May's Toy Stories: Flight Club** (R/S) **8.00** **Dara O'Brian's Science Club** (S) **9.00** **Neil Armstrong: First Man on the Moon** Drawing on unbroadcasted archive material and interviews with those closest to him, the film goes beyond the moon landing to reveal the man behind the myth. (S) **10.00** **FILM: Moon** (2009) Psychological thriller starring Sam Rockwell and Matt Berry. (S) **11.30** **FILM: Blade Runner** (2007) Sci-fi thriller starring Harrison Ford and Rutger Hauer. (S) **1.20** Dangerous Days: On the Edge of Blade Runner (R/S) **3.05** **News** (S) **4.45** This is BBC Two (S)

ITV1

6.10 Babar and the Adventures of Badou (R/S) **6.35** Signed Stories (R/S) **7.05** Fleabag Monkeyface (R/S) **7.30** Almost Naked Animals (R/S) **8.00** Big Time Rush (R/S) **8.30** Fort Boyard (S) **9.25** There's No Taste Like Home (R/S) **10.25** Dinner Date (R/S) **11.25** Dickinson's Real Deal (R/S) **12.25** All Star Family Fortunes (R/S) **1.15** **FILM: Carry on Girls** (1973) (S) **3.00** **FILM: Tea with Mussolini** (1999) Drama with Cher, Judi Dench and Joan Plowright. (S) **5.15** Joanna Lumley (R/S) **6.35** **News** (S) **7.00** **Super Famous Animals** A look at the world of the superstar animals, including Britain's Got Talent winners Ashleigh and Pudsey. (S) **8.00** **Wild at Heart** The new year does not bring good news for Du Plessis when he visits his doctor. (S) **10.00** **News** (S) **10.15** **A Night with Beyonce** (R/S) **11.30** **Rugby Highlights** (S) **12.25** Jackpot247 (S) **3.00** River Monsters (R/S) **3.50** Nightscreen (S)

CHANNEL 4

5.55 The Hoobs (R/S) **6.20** **FILM: Dr. Dolittle: Million Dollar Mutts** (2009) (S) **7.45** **FILM: Dr. Dolittle 3** (2006) (R/S) **9.30** Sunday Brunch (S) **11.40** The Big Bang Theory (S) **12.10** Simpsons (R/S) **12.40** **FILM: Clash of the Titans** (1981) (R/S) **2.55** **FILM: Edward Scissorhands** (1990) (R/S) **5.00** **News** (S) **5.30** The Art of the Snowman and the Snowdog (R/S) **5.35** The Snowman and the Snowdog (R/S) **6.05** How the Snowman Came Back to Life (S) **7.00** **Come Dine with Me** (S) **8.00** **The Hotel** (S) **9.00** **Big Fat Quiz of the Year 2012** Jimmy Carr puts a panel of celebrities to the test as they battle it out to see who remembers most about 2012. (S) **11.05** **The Last Leg of the Year** A review and celebration of 2012. (S) **12.10** Alan Carr Chatty Man Christmas Special (R/S) **1.10** American Football (S) **4.45** Brief Encounters of the Sporting Mind (R/S) **5.00** Freeports on 4 (R/S) **5.25** The Enduroman Arch to Arc Triathlon (R/S) **5.50** Extreme Sailing Series (S)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake **9.40** Chinese Food in Minutes (R/S) **9.50** Meerkat Manor (R/S) **10.20** Dallas (R/S) **11.15** Eddie Stobart's Christmas Cracker (R/S) **12.20** Once Upon a Time (R/S) **1.15** **FILM: Lost Holiday: The Jim and Suzanne Shemwell Story** (2007) (S) **3.05** **FILM: Ivanhoe** (1952) (S) **5.05** **FILM: Seven Brides for Seven Brothers** (1954) (S) **7.05** **Eddie Stobart: Trucks and Trailers** A Stobart truck has to go the distance in Ireland and Elliott has to perform a tricky delivery in Yorkshire. (R/S) **7.55** **News** (S) **8.00** **World's Strongest Man 2012** The 35th running of the international strongman competition from the grounds of the Commerce Casino in Los Angeles. (S) **9.00** **An Audience with Ken Dodd** (R/S) **11.00** **FILM: The Man Who Sued God** (2000) Comedy with Billy Connolly. (S) **1.00** Supercasino **4.00** House Doctor (R/S) **4.45** Rough Guide (R/S) **5.05** Milkshake

NEW YEAR'S EVE

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast (S) **9.00** **FILM: Muppet Treasure Island** (1996) (S) **10.30** **FILM: G-Force** (2009) (S) **11.50** **FILM: Kung Fu Panda Holiday** (2010) (S) **12.40** Total Wipeout: The Awards (S) **1.40** **FILM: Bedtime Stories** (2008) (S) **3.10** **FILM: The Sound of Music** (1965) (S) **6.00** **News** (S) **6.30** **Christmas Mastermind** (S) **7.00** **Top of the Pops 2012: New Year's Eve** Featne Cotton and Reggie Yates present a celebration of the big hits of the year. (S) **8.00** **EastEnders** (S) **8.30** **FILM: Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time** (2010) Fantasy adventure starring Jake Gyllenhaal and Gemma Arterton. (S) **10.20** **News** (S) **10.35** **The Graham Norton Show** (S) **11.40** **New Year Live** Gabby Logan rings in 2013 with the chiming of Big Ben and the spectacular fireworks display. (S) **12.15** John Bishop: The Sunshine Tour (S) **1.25** **FILM: Scary Movie 4** (2006) (S) **2.40** Weatherview (S) **2.45** **News** (S)

BBC2

6.00 Cbeebies **9.00** Operation Iceberg. Double bill. (R/S) **11.00** The Great British Bake Off. Double bill. (R/S) **1.00** Escape to the Country (R/S) **1.45** Flog It (R/S) **2.50** **FILM: The Red Baron** (2008) War drama starring Til Schweiger and Lena Headey. (S) **4.30** Great Continental Railway Journeys (R/S) **5.30** Christmas University Challenge (S) **6.00** **Climbed Every Mountain: The Story Behind the Sound of Music** (R/S) **7.00** **FILM: Catch Me if You Can** (2002) True crime story starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Tom Hanks. (S) **9.15** **FILM: Julie & Julia** (2009) Dual biopic starring Meryl Streep and Amy Adams. (S) **11.10** **Jools' Annual Hootenanny** Jools' guests include Emeli Sande, Bobby Womack, Adam Ant, Paloma Faith, Ruby Turner, Petula Clark, and the Pipes and Drums of the 1st Battalion Scots Guards. (S) **1.40** Best Bits @ Hackney 2012 (R/S) **2.40** Reading Festival 2012: Highlights (R/S) **4.15** This is BBC Two (S)

ITV1

6.00 Babar and the Adventures of Badou (R/S) **6.30** The Hive (R/S) **7.05** Fleabag Monkeyface (S) **7.20** Almost Naked Animals (S) **7.35** **FILM: From Time to Time** (2009) (S) **9.25** Dinner Date (S) **10.25** **FILM: War Games** (1983) (S) **12.40** Midsomer Murders (R/S) **2.35** The Unforgettable John Thaw (R/S) **3.35** Just Henry (R/S) **5.35** **News** (S) **6.00** Wild at Heart - Filming with Animals (S) **7.00** **Emmerdale** (S) **7.30** **Coronation Street** Tyrone struggles to get away as Fiz's life hangs in the balance. (S) **8.00** **You've Been Framed!** (R/S) **8.30** **Coronation Street** (S) **9.00** **2012: A Funny Old Year** Jason Manford is joined by an all-star cast of stand-up comics to discuss the events of past year. (S) **10.00** **FILM: Bridget Jones's Diary** (2001) Romantic comedy starring Renée Zellweger and Hugh Grant. (S) **11.45** **News** (S) **12.05** **FILM: Fletch** (1985) (S) **1.40** Pushing Daisies (R/S) **2.25** Nightscreen (S)

CHANNEL 4

6.20 The Treacle People (R/S) **6.35** **FILM: Happily N'Ever After** (2006) (S) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. Double bill. (R/S) **8.55** Frasier. Double bill. (R/S) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. Double bill. (S) **11.00** Simpsons (R/S) **12.00** **FILM: Son of the Mask** (2005) (R/S) **1.45** **FILM: Entrapment** (1999) (R/S) **4.00** Deal Or No Deal (R/S) **5.00** Simpsons (R/S) **5.25** Hollyoaks (S) **6.30** **News** (S) **7.00** **Come Dine with Me Top 30** The Come Dine with Me vault has been ransacked to count down the 30 best bits ever. (S) **9.00** **Alan Carr's New Year Spectacular** Alan Carr welcomes in 2013 with unpredictable madness, party games and many special guests. (S) **11.05** **8 Out of 10 Cats** (S) **11.50** **House Party: NYE** After this summer's bank holiday smash hit, the party is back for the ultimate 2012 send off. With DJ sets by Annie Mac and Norman Jay. (S)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake **9.35** Dallas (R/S) **10.30** Eddie Stobart: Trucks and Trailers (R/S) **11.35** Eddie Stobart: Christmas Delivery (R/S) **12.35** Once Upon a Time (R/S) **1.30** **FILM: The Man from the Alamo** (1953) (S) **3.10** **FILM: Cheyenne Autumn** (1964) (S) **6.00** The All New Gadget Show (S) **7.05** **Eddie Stobart: Trucks and Trailers** (R/S) **8.00** **World's Strongest Man 2012** The 35th running of the international strongman competition from the grounds of the Commerce Casino in Los Angeles. (S) **9.00** **Britain's Funniest Comedy Characters** A countdown of the nation's 50 favourite comedy characters, including the likes of David Brent, Basil Fawlty, and Little Britain's Lou and Andy. (R/S) **11.55** **NCIS** (R/S) **12.55** Supercasino **3.55** House Doctor (R/S) **4.20** Divine Designs (R/S) **4.45** Great Artists (R/S) **5.10** Michaela's Wild Challenge (R/S) **5.35** Nick's Quest (R/S)

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announcements


view the guest books at: www.luton-dunstable.co.uk/announcements

Birthdays




Andrea Nelson
24 December
Happy 40th Birthday

You're still the same as you were when you were sweet 16! From everybody that knows you xxx




DANIEL GRAY
Happy 21st Birthday Today

to our big brother. Love from Hannah and Sophie xx




GRAY
Happy 21st **DANIEL**

Our only Grandson on 23rd Dec. All our love Nan and Grand-dad xx




CACEY POOLE
Happy 21st Today

Lots of love Dad, Witchie, Gabby, Jeremy and The Lion xxxxx



JIM AND ELSA SLATER
Congratulations 70th Wedding Anniversary 24/12/12

Love all your Family




Happy 80th Birthday **NONNA**

Lots of love and best wishes from all your family, grandchildren, & great grandchild xxx




CHRISTIAN BOCCHETTI
We can't believe you're 18 already! Wishing you all the very best for the future. All our love. Mum, Dad and Sasha. xxx



DANIEL GRAY
Happy 21st Birthday

23rd December


Lots of love Mum xxx



DANIEL GRAY
Happy 21st Birthday

on 23rd December

Lots of love Dad, Hannah, Sophie xxx



Happy 70th (20 December) to the best mother in the world, **CHRISSEY KAVANAGH**

Lots of love from us all. xxx



Look who's 60 **GLISHA KOLDAN**

Happy 60th Birthday Love Rita, Zora & Tania

Anniversaries



www.luton-dunstable.co.uk

FOR FAST, UP TO THE MINUTE LOCAL NEWS

onsunday


Engagements

Doherty - Bufton
(Olivers bar)

Congratulations

to Gerry & Mandy on your engagement Friday 21st December

Best wishes for the future from Helen & colleagues at Luton On Sunday



In Memoriam

JOAN HARDWICK
14.5.27 - 25.12.08

It is now 4 long years Always missed Always tears Forever Rex

WILLIAMSON - 23rd December 2009. In loving memory of a wonderful mum, nanna, great nanna and great great nanna. Missed and loved so very much. Patricia, Graham, Janet, David and Family x

Deaths

FREDA WILLN (Olive)
Passed away peacefully after a short illness on 10th December 2012, aged 82 years.

Funeral service will take place at St. Owen's Church, Bromham on Wednesday 9th January 2013 at 1 o'clock, followed by a committal at Norse Road Crematorium, Bedford at 2.30pm.


Family flowers only but donations for St. John's Hospice, Moggerhanger may be sent c/o Clarabut & Plumbe, 11 Kingsway, Bedford MK42 9BJ Tel. 01234 354547

In Memoriam

MICK FENSOME
26/12/2009

Another year has passed I miss you so much. Always thinking of you. All my Love, Jenny xxx

DELIA WALKER (DEE)
In memory of A wonderful Wife, Mum, Grand and Great Grandmum. Always in our hearts and thoughts. Even more so at this time of the year. Greatly missed by Husband David, Clare, Patrick, Ash and all the family




MICHAEL FENSOME
26/12/09
"Grandad"

3 years have passed now and a lot has happened. You now have a Great Grandson, James Michael who was born on your birthday and even though he will never meet you he will always know what a great man you were. Miss you everyday, Lots of Love, Hannasha xxx

CORAL ADELLA INSKIP
In loving memory of Coral who passed away on the 25th December 2010.

Very much loved and missed by both our families. Love forever Don xxx



Help **GREENUP** this Christmas

Christmas tree recycling in parks

From Monday 31 December 2012 to Monday 7 January 2013:

- Abbotswood Road Recreation Ground (just off Abbotswood Road)
- Brantwood Park – former Dallow Road Recreation Ground (by the toilets)
- Farley Community Centre (by the car park)
- Icknield Recreation Ground (by the car park)
- Inspire Laton Sports Village
- Kingsway Recreation Ground (by the Dunstable Road toilets)
- Leagrave Park (by the bowling green)
- Lensway Park (by the swimming pool)
- Manor Road Recreation Ground (just off Manor Road)
- Parley Centre (by the car park entrance)
- Stockwood Park (by the Farley Hill car park)
- Warden Park (by the Old Bedford Road bus stop and by the New Bedford Road former toilets site)
- Wymore Valley Park (by the car park)

Look out for gifts with packaging that can be reused or recycled.
Top tip: why not use last year's cards to create your own unique gift tags?

Did you know around a third of all the food we buy ends up being thrown away?

Top tip: try to make a shopping list and remember to check your cupboards, fridge and freezer before you go shopping.

For other tips go to: www.lovefoodhatewaste.com

If your recycling bin fills up over Christmas, why not pop down to your Neighbourhood Recycling Centre to recycle all your extra packaging?

Top tip: squash fizzy drink bottles and cardboard packaging to make extra space in your recycling bin.

A whole range of jars – from cranberry sauce to mince meat and baby food – can be recycled. Just use your kerbside collection box or visit your Neighbourhood Recycling Centre.

Recycle your Christmas cards by using the kerbside recycling collection, local Neighbourhood Recycling Centres or when you go shopping (some stores provide collection boxes).

After the festive period, don't forget to recycle your Christmas tree using the collection points in your local park from 31 December 2012 until 7 January 2013 (see details, left). Alternatively, cut up your tree and take it to one of the Household Waste Recycling Centres.

Top tip: use a pot-grown tree which you can replant in the garden and use again next year.

Christmas and new year kerbside collections

Please have your bins and boxes available from 6am on day of collection

	Green recycling bin	Glass collection box	Food waste and household refuse (black bins)
Normal collection day:	Will be collected on:	Will be collected on:	Will be collected on:
Mon 24 Dec	No change	No change	No change
Tue 25 Dec	Wed 26 Dec	Wed 26 Dec	Wed 2 Jan
Wed 26 Dec	Thur 27 Dec	Thur 27 Dec	Thur 3 Jan
Thur 27 Dec	Fri 28 Dec	Fri 28 Dec	No change
Fri 28 Dec	Sat 29 Dec	Sat 29 Dec	No change
Mon 31 Jan	No change	No change	No change
Tue 1 Jan	No change	No change	Wed 2 Jan
Wed 2 Jan	No change	No change	Thur 3 Jan
Thur 3 Jan	No change	No change	Fri 4 Jan
Fri 4 Jan	No change	No change	Sat 5 Jan

Collections return to normal from Monday 7 January 2013.

Tel: 51 03 33, email: wastecustomerservice@luton.gov.uk

Garden waste collections will be suspended from Friday 7 December 2012 (last collection) until week commencing Monday 25 February 2013. During that time please use Household Waste Recycling Centres or home-compost your garden waste.



www.luton.gov.uk/refusecollection

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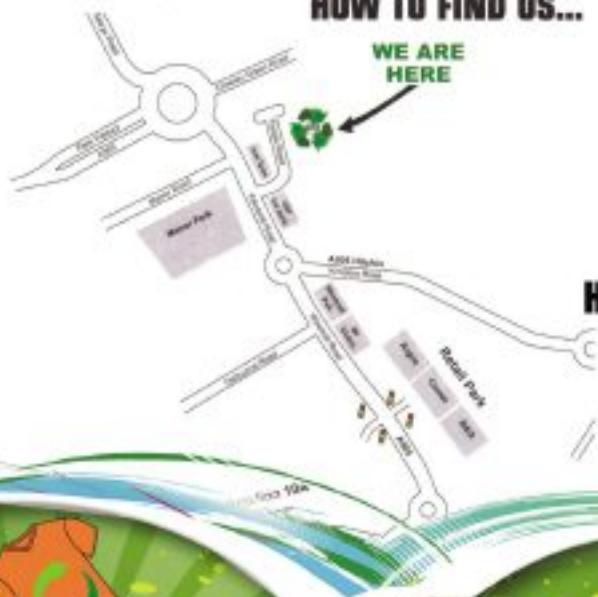
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Story telling has always been part and Christmas parcel of this time of year. We invited Luton on Sunday readers to enter our seasonal short story competition to win a £20 voucher from the Mall. Congratulations go to Amy Fox, whose winning story, **The Christmas Tree**, is published in full here. Amy asked that her prize should be presented to the Luton branch of the Alzheimer's Society who were delighted at the early Christmas present.



THE CHRISTMAS TREE by Amy Fox

'Christmas?' thought Ellen as she looked out of her kitchen window. Before her, a winter wilderness; as beautiful as a postcard. Tall Douglas firs stood like palace guards in her large garden, resplendent in their shimmering frosting. They stood shoulder to shoulder, bordering a virgin white carpet of snow. Ellen hugged herself. She shivered and looked up at the grey sky. Safe, warm, together...

Out of the corner of her eye, Ellen noticed movement: her husband. Once tall and proud, now stooped and shuffling. Snow toppling over his red carpet slippers, his mustard cardigan awkwardly buttoned. His breath was ragged and visible in the keening wind. Ellen closed her eyes, a tear escaped, trickling slowly down her face. When did this nightmare begin? She felt dead inside. As she forced her eyes open and clambered into damp boots, she went to rescue her husband from the bitter cold and iron clasp of Alzheimer's.

Inside, warm again and sat by the blazing wood-burning stove, surrounded by Christmas cards, Don stared ahead vacantly. Ellen held his trembling hands in hers. She kissed him gently on the cheek, holding back more tears and yearned desperately for the Christmases of yore when their lives were on course for a retirement of fulfilment and even adventure.

Bing Crosby crooned "I'm dreaming of a white Christmas, just like the ones I used to know..."

The loud, insistent ringing of the telephone jarred Ellen back to reality.

"Yes? Who is it? Who? No. No! Go away!" Ellen grabbed the receiver, wrestling it out of Don's hands and spoke.

"Hello? Oh, hello love. Yes, your dad...I'll ring back," her voice was defeated.

She sat down, exhausted, and her eyes flicked to Don. He looked fine; still handsome and lean. No one would know he was almost an empty vessel, only now and then a flicker of normality. She grabbed that flicker with tenacity every time. But her tiny glimmer of hope was fading as the cruel ravages of the disease robbed her husband of his mind.

Two days later, her children and their respective families materialised by the front door. The family marched in, stomping snow-crusted boots. Alfie and Millie raced through the narrow hall to the conservatory at the back, gloved fingers flat against the misted windows.

"Cor, look at the garden!" Alfie yelled. He rubbed a neat circle into the glass. "It's snow all over! Yippee! Can we make a snowman, Nana?" He turned his excited, red-cheeked face to Ellen, "Can we? Can we?" Millie, always the calmest and more thoughtful than her brother replied: "Nan, we won't keep coming in and out. We know how cold Grandpa gets." She stole a glance at Don who was sat close to the shuttered wood stove, hands outstretched in a bid to keep warm.

"Alright, but mind you keep warm, and no snowballs! This house will no longer be ours very soon and we can't afford repairs to broken windows. Off you go now and have fun."

The children thundered out into the

freezing garden. They threw themselves into the pristine snow, squealing with delight as they created their snowmen.

Ellen's children started to initiate the moving process. Jane, Ellen's daughter, started to remove the aged treasured glass ornaments from the tree, ready to wrap up in newspaper and put carefully into an empty box.

"No, Jane, not yet," Ellen chided softly as she placed her hand gently on her daughter's forearm. "Please, darling, another day won't matter. The house is so empty now and your dad loves the twinkling lights, it helps to calm him when the hallucinations disturb his sleep..."

Jane looked into her mother's weary eyes and nodded.

Alfie was in the far recess of the garden, no coat, hat, scarf or gloves. He was on his tummy amidst the gloom of the Douglas firs where the old fox den was, oblivious to the snow and cold.

He was pulling at a wall of snow in front of the uninhabited fox hole. Jane made for the door.

When the frenzied activity had ceased; when the labelled tea-boxes had been hoisted into the waiting lorry and every surface had been washed and scrubbed, the tang of a strong, citrus household cleaner filled the air.

The tree stood alone in the corner, twinkling multicolour lights that mesmerised Don, his face a fixed mask. Ellen stared at the ancient glass decorations passed down through generations, soon to be dismantled, like the rest of her life.

The next morning Ellen was up early for a busy day. Breakfast was scrambled eggs, as always. Don's fingers tried valiantly to hold his fork but failed. Undeterred, he scooped it up in his clawed fingers and ate it.

"Now go and get washed and you can have the tree lights on for a while before we go," Ellen gently instructed her husband. "We need to be ready in two hours." She frowned. Don had no idea of what the passage of time meant anymore.

Outside, the sky was glowering like a galvanised dustbin lid ready to clang shut as she and Don moved on. In the garden a huge snowman dominated her outlook. Its head lolled to one side, with one of Don's old cloth caps perched precariously on top. The children had been very inventive in their play. Slung over the snowman's shoulders lay what looked like Don's old potting shed jacket; an item long since abandoned by a man who could not recall how he 'pottered' or why.

All of a sudden, Don stood by her side. He smelled of soap and Old Spice and his hair, neatly combed, on the wrong side. He slipped his trembling hand into hers.

"Lesgo," he muttered. Ellen looked at

him quizzically. "Lesgo gudun," he insisted and pulled her gently to the back door.

"Shum," he said again and Ellen sighed. His fumbling fingers eventually succumbed to her strong, nimble ones as she fastened his coat buttons and pulled up the collar. She looked into his emotionless face. It was as if he had been carved out of wax. Hand in hand, they made their last journey into the garden that had seen seasons come and go and watched their family grow.

Don stopped by the snowman. He stared and it stared back.

"Glus," he said, rubbing a finger under his cold, red nose. "Glus," he repeated. Ellen shook her head.

"What? What are you saying?" she asked, puzzled.

"Glus," he muttered and promptly poked the snowman in the moustache.

"Moustache? Is that what you mean?" she queried. She knew his speech had nose-dived recently. He spoke little these days and it was usually something garbled and unintelligible.

"Glus!" he shouted. He turned to her, his face breaking out of its mask and becoming animated. His eyes sparked anger, trying hard to make her see.

Ellen pulled him close and felt him shake. She felt his hot tears on her face. His knees buckled as he tried hard to hold onto her. "Glus! Glus!"

It took some time to haul her husband out of the snow. He was heavy and his skeleton seemed no longer to exist; it had perished alongside his brilliant spark. She sat him by the fire and turned on the tree lights. She held soup to his lips which he sipped and closed his eyes, slurping and licking his lips. Ellen sighed, tears welling. Why had he got so excited over a snowman's moustache?

She looked at her watch; soon it would be time to go and she ought to make a last check around. Don was safe and warm, staring at the tree lights; humming softly. Ellen left the garden until last, tramping the perimeter, checking the greenhouse and potting shed were securely locked.

She looked at the trees and their flimsy canopies of glittering snow. Lastly, her favourites: the Douglas firs. Cold and silent as they were, they still smelt of pine, littering the ground beneath them with discarded needles. Ellen touched the bark, thick and grooved like armour plating. Goodbye old friend...

She turned to see Alex's infant fingerprints in a wall of snow. Ellen stopped abruptly – what was that? A glint of gold sparkled momentarily. It must be her imagination, she thought, and turned. A flash of gold again. She bent down to the plundered fox hole and found what had been poking out.

Don was still staring at the tree lights as Ellen came in, still humming gently. She knelt down in front of him and

cradled his face in her hands. She was carrying a small and intricately carved tin. Ellen held it up so Don could see. On the lid was a beautifully embossed Douglas fir, majestic and capped with snow with lights on the branches.

Inside the tin was a neatly folded piece of paper dated four years almost to the day. Don's neat handwriting flowed to the bottom. Ellen read out the words, strident then turning to sobs.

Dearest Ellen,

You are my life. I love you, even though one day I will no longer be able to recall how it felt to be loved back so unconditionally. I cry now because I will lose you – I will be me, but not me. But, deep inside, you will always be in my heart, even if my actions or voice will be silenced. The Douglas firs have been our protectors and in this tin I give you all that is left of me and my unspoken love for you. Eternally, your beloved Don.

Tears splashed from his frozen face and his eyes dripped the agony of a man locked inside himself.

"Glus," he whispered, almost inaudibly. Ellen knew now what he had meant in the garden. Glus like Douglas fir. The snowman had a Douglas fir moustache. The doorbell rang and their son, Nicholas, emerged from the hall.

"All okay, mum?" he asked, staring at the tin in her hand.

"Yes love," replied Ellen. She smiled, wiping the tears from her husband's cheeks, kissing him full on the lips.

"We're fine, aren't we, darling?" she said, squeezing his hand.

"What's that?" asked Nicholas, pointing at the tin.

"Oh, just an old Christmas tin I found. I rather like it, might keep it as a memento." She looked at the Christmas tree in the corner and turned off the lights. She turned to her son.

"Let's be on our way now, love. You and the kids can have the tree if you want it, we won't need it where we're going."

Nicholas looked at his parents and thought that they looked different somehow, a bit like they used to be...

As they all climbed into Nicholas' car and took one last look at the family home, Ellen pressed the note in her coat pocket. In Don's pocket rested the tin. He took it out, humming softly and traced his fingers repeatedly over the beautifully etched Christmas tree.

The radio came on as Nicholas turned the ignition. "I'm dreaming of a white Christmas," crooned Bing Crosby, "just like the ones I used to know..."

The car slid noiselessly into the busy lunchtime traffic. Ellen smiled...



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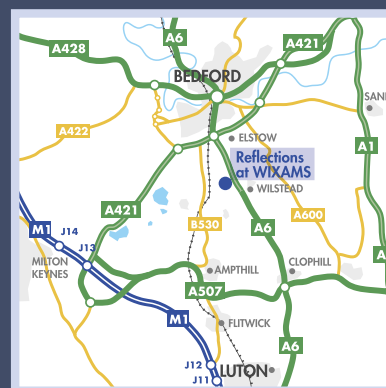
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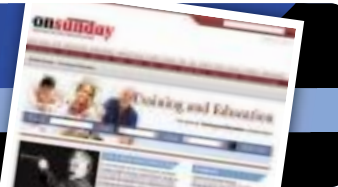


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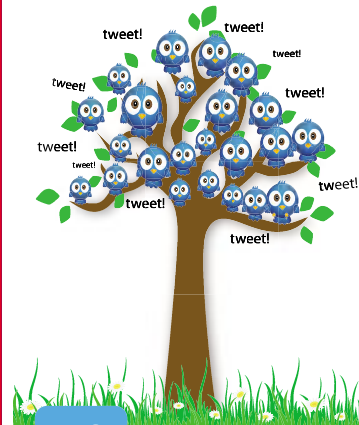
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• Dunstable – Hillcroft, Southwood Road and Weatherby

These temporary closures are required to enable road surfacing works to take place and shall apply to such extent as may from time to time be indicated by the appropriate traffic signs. Where possible access will be maintained to property and premises but may be restricted from time to time according to local signing.

It is expected that the works at each location will take place for up to THREE DAYS between 2nd January and 1st July 2013 from 8am to 6pm. Specific dates will be advertised locally closer to the time

The alternative routes, where available, for vehicles affected by the Order are:-
Caddington – For Mancroft Road proceed east on Dunstable Road, turn left onto A5, turn left on B4540 Luton Road, continue and vice versa.
Dunstable – For Southwood Road proceed north on A5, turn right into Mayfield Road, turn right into Oakwood Avenue, turn right into Jardine Way, turn right, continue to Southwood Road and vice versa.

The proposed Orders will come into operation on 2nd January 2013 for a period of six months or until the proposed works have been completed, as detailed above, whichever is the earlier.

For further information please contact Central Bedfordshire Highways, Tel: 0300 300 8049.

DATED 2nd January 2013

Central Bedfordshire Council
Technology House, Amphill Road
Bedford MK42 9BD



Gary Alderson
Director for Sustainable Communities

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Mr Michael Grant-Sinclair of 42 Dexter Close, Barton Hills LU3 4DY is applying for a licence to use New Farm Streatley LU33NP as an operating centre for 1 goods vehicle and 1 trailer.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at VOSA Licensing Application Services Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF stating their reasons within 21 days of this notice, representation must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioners Office.

Date: 23rd December 2012

onsunday TO ADVERTISE CALL 01582 700800

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 14**CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL (HOUGHTON REGIS: FOOTPATH NO 1) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2011**

Notice is hereby given that the Order made by Central Bedfordshire Council on the 13 June 2011 the effect of which will be to prohibit any person proceeding on foot along the length of Footpath No 1, Houghton Regis which extends from Ordnance Survey Grid Reference (OS GR) TL 0198 2294 generally east north east for approximately 780m to its junction with Houghton Road, Houghton Regis at OS GR TL 0147 2344 has been continued in force with the approval of the Secretary of State for Transport until 18 July 2013.

This temporary closure is required to allow for the construction of a new housing development to take place. The closure is expected to continue from 21 December 2012 to 18 July 2013.

The alternative routes for footpath users while the closure is in operation will be:

From OS GR TL 0147 2344 proceed along the footpath of Houghton Road, Houghton Regis and then Houghton Road, Dunstable in a south south westerly direction for approx 798m to the junction with High Street North, Dunstable at OS GR TL 0109 2277. Continue along High Street North, Dunstable in a north westerly direction for approx 454m to the junction with Footpath No 1, Houghton Regis at OS GR TL 0198 2294 and vice versa.

The Order will continue in force until 18 July 2013 or until the works have been completed, whichever is the earlier. If the works are not completed within six months the Order may be extended for a longer period with the consent of the Secretary of State for Transport.

For further information, please contact Michelle Flynn, Central Bedfordshire Council, Tel: 0300 300 6072

DATED 19 December 2012

Technology House
Amphill Road
Bedford MK42 9BD

DAVID LEVERINGTON
Rights of Way Team Leader

THE LICENSING ACT 2003**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR LICENCE**

We, Inn Control 4 U Ltd, of The Free Holders, 45 York Street, Luton, Beds LU2 0HA are applying for the grant of a Premises Licence.

If granted, the licence will enable the following to take place: sale of alcohol for consumption / sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises / provision of late night refreshment / provision of regulated entertainment consisting of:

Supply of alcohol Mon - Thurs 10.00 - 00.00, Fri - Sun 10.00 - 02.00; late night refreshments Mon - Thurs & Sun 10.00 - 02.00; live music indoors Fri, Sun 10.00 - 00.00; recorded music indoors & outdoors Mon - Thurs & Sun 10.00 - 00.00, Fri - Sat 10.00 - 02.00; facilities for dancing indoors Mon - Thurs & Sun 19.00 - 00.00, Fri - Sat 19.00 - 00.00. Seasonal variations on standard evenings on all licensable activities: Christmas Eve, Boxing Night, New Year's Eve bank holiday 10.00 - 02.00 & New Year's Day no live music.

Persons wishing to make representations in respect of this application may do so by writing to: Licensing Service, Luton Borough Council, Town Hall, Luton, Beds LU1 2BQ, within 28 days from the date of this notice. A copy of the Application is also kept at the above address and may be viewed during normal office hours.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application, the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction is a level 5 fine on standard scale.

Dated 14/12/12

THE BOROUGH OF LUTON (NEW BEDFORD ROAD) (TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE) ORDER 2012

NOTICE is hereby given that Luton Borough Council, the Highway Authority for the said Borough, intends to make the above Order under the relevant provisions of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended). The Order will come into operation 15th January 2013 and cease operation after 1 month or when the proposed works have been completed. Specific times and dates will be signed locally. The Order will therefore be in operation when signs are displayed.

The effect of the Order will allow the Council to close to traffic the road and length of road in the schedule below. The Order is intended to create a window for the works to be done and it is anticipated that the works will be completed over a period within the dates described above.

The purpose of the Order is to facilitate examination of the railway bridge. Access will be maintained as best as possible to properties where this may be done safely whilst such works are being carried out and diversions for traffic will be marked by signs.

ROAD	LENGTH OF ROAD	TIMES
New Bedford Road	At its junction with the Hucklesby Way roundabout	11.00pm to 5.00am

Graham Turner, Highway Services Manager
Town Hall Luton LU1 2BQ

THE BOROUGH OF LUTON (OLD BEDFORD ROAD) (TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE) ORDER 2012

NOTICE is hereby given that Luton Borough Council, the Highway Authority for the said Borough, intends to make the above Order under the relevant provisions of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended).

The Order will come into operation 14th January 2013 and cease operation after 1 month or when the proposed works have been completed. Specific times and dates will be signed locally. The Order will therefore be in operation when signs are displayed.

The effect of the Order will allow the Council to close to traffic the road and length of road in the schedule below. The Order is intended to create a window for the works to be done and it is anticipated that the works will be completed over a period within the dates described above.

The purpose of the Order is to facilitate examination of the railway bridge. Access will be maintained as best as possible to properties where this may be done safely whilst such works are being carried out and diversions for traffic will be marked by signs.

ROAD	LENGTH OF ROAD	TIMES
Old Bedford Road	From its junction with Hucklesby Way to its junction with Mill Street	11.00pm to 5.00am

Graham Turner, Highway Services Manager
Town Hall Luton LU1 2BQ

DATED: 23rd December 2012

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SUZUKI SCALES UP

If the Kizashi is indeed a statement of Suzuki's capability, then consider me convinced.

It's a genuinely good car. Unfortunately it's also a car with very limited appeal to British buyers.

With a low emission diesel engine and a hatchback it could be a real sales success but that's not about to happen. Instead it'll always be an oddity; a four-wheel drive saloon that's powered by a 2.4-litre petrol engine and which doesn't seem to fit into any universally accepted market sector.

Economy and emissions aren't stellar but the Kizashi counters with a huge equipment list. You'll spot the handsome 18-inch alloy wheels and the full leather interior, extras which could

easily tack a couple of thousand pounds onto the price of some other cars. It doesn't stop there. You'll get seven airbags, high intensity discharge headlights, an electric sunroof, ESP stability control, front and rear parking sensors, electric front seats, of which the driver's seat is 10-way adjustable, keyless entry, an eight speaker stereo with subwoofer, cruise control, USB port and audio controls on the steering wheel. The only option available is a touch screen sat nav. That is a lot of gear for £23,000.

As it stands, the Kizashi is going to be a tough sell. It'll doubtless make a very intriguing used buy two or three years down the road, but for the time being it's a curiosity albeit a wholly likeable one. If you're looking for an uncommonly comfortable and capable car that can shrug off all weathers and you may not plan to put huge mileages onto it, try a Kizashi.

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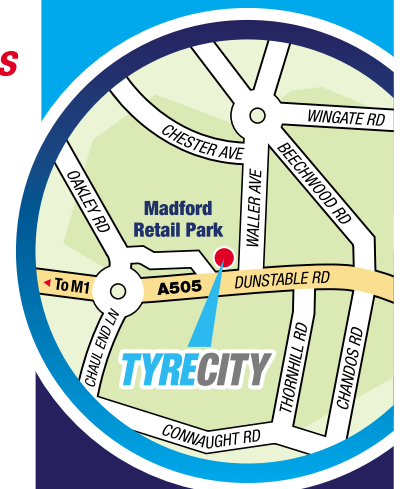
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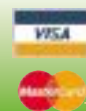
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FOOTBALL

BY LUKE PETERSON
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JAMES DANCE has dedicated his first goal on return from injury to his grandfather, who passed away midway through the Luton Town midfielder's lay off.

Dance scored his first goal since returning from a long spell out with a knee injury in Tuesday's 2-1 Bedfordshire Senior Cup loss to Arlesey Town.

"I lost my granddad during the ten months that I was out," said Dance. "I went to see him on Wednesday at the cemetery. He was my biggest fan so that goal was for him."

Dance is just grateful to be able to pay a belated tribute to his deceased family member after

admitting his career was in the balance ahead of a second operation to cure an ankle problem.

"[It goalscoring] is nice for things like that because he died before my second operation so I didn't know where I stood. I've had a few dark days; there's no getting away from it," he said.

Dance's manager, Paul Buckle, said he "really feared" for the midfielder's career at one stage but is delighted to see him back.

"He comes in the morning, says hello to everyone, he's alive, he's bright, he shows no disappointment or pain and is a real pleasure to work with," Buckle said.

"He's got everything I'm looking for in a player."

Yet Buckle will let Dance go out on loan as soon as he signs a winger next month. He has been limited to a few minutes of action in the cup

replay against Nuneaton last month.

"I can't let him out on loan until we've got someone in or other players are doing well enough for me to allow him to," Buckle said.

"He understands that, we've had many a chat. It would be ideal for him to go and get games and we've got some takers, people have rung me already about James Dance. The proof is in the pudding when the phone rings about a player, you know you're doing something right and the player's doing something right."

"I'm convinced that one, we'll have some takers for Dance and two, he'll go and do the business for someone."

"I'm just delighted for him [that he is back] as I was worried at one stage, very worried that his career could be in danger."

Meanwhile, Buckle is looking forward to Luton Town being the underdogs for the first time this season next month when the Hatters host Wolves in the third round of the FA Cup.

Buckle has often had to contend with team's adopting a defensive approach against his side who are viewed as a powerhouse in non-league football.

But Championship outfit Wolves, who were in the Premier League this time last season, will arrive at Kenilworth Road on January 5 as the favourites to progress to the fourth round.

"It will be the first time we've ever been the underdog [since I have been here] but we'll be ready for it. The supporters are talking about it and it will be a great reminder of where we used to be and where we want to get back to."

Knockout hit lands Luton fighter win

MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

BY TOM SHARP
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MMA specialist Dale Hardiman has proved he is a knockout in the octagon after he was awarded the accolade of 2012 Cage Warrior Fighting Championship Knockout of the Year.

The blow dealt in a 44-second win over Ido Pariente in July was one of five contenders for the title and received 44 per cent of the overall vote.

The prize ends a month that started disappointingly for Hardiman as he was unanimously beaten by Stevie Ray for the BAMMA British Lightweight title in Birmingham and the Hurricane is pleased to be crowned knockout king despite tough competition.

"I am extremely happy to win the award. Cage Warriors are a huge promotion and it was great to even be considered in a category full of such great fighters," said Hardiman.

"All the other knockouts were fantastic but I definitely feel I got the award I deserve and I'm happy to end the year on a real high note."

"I have never been in contention for the honour before so it's amazing to win it this year."

However, despite describing the shot as "the best of his career", the 24-year-old maintains the reward does not make up for his loss to Ray and will not stop until he has reclaimed "his" lightweight belt.

"As far as I am concerned the BAMMA title has no rightful owner and Steven is just babysitting it," said Hardiman.

"In 2013 I want a tough opponent that I can beat well and put me right back on track for a rematch."

"All other goals are put on hold until I get my title round my waist."

The Luton fighter, who has a mixed 2012 record of two wins in four competitive fights, is battling on-going injury issues and sees a likely date for his next fight in late summer.

"I want to be fit and healthy before I get back into the cage to be honest," said Hardiman.

"I'll be in rehab until the middle of 2013 at the earliest I would say."

His brother Ben has also recently joined the MMA ranks but is yet to make his professional debut and there are no plans for a potential family feud. They both train at the Storm Gym in Luton.

"Ben is doing great but there are no plans to fight," said Hardiman.

"We do that enough in training."



Stockwood Park suffer yellow fever

RUGBY UNION

BY JONATHAN PAXTON
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STOCKWOOD PARK fell to a 48-7 defeat at undefeated Stamford in the Midlands Division 3 East (South) but spent most of the second half short-handed as they saw three players yellow carded.

Stamford, sitting in second place, ran into a 15-0 lead but Stockwood scored a fine try to get themselves back into the game.

David Keatings finished off a flowing move after good work from James Hankey and Ben Griffin and the visitors then spent long periods held up on the Stamford line but were unable to turn their pressure into points.

Trailing 20-7 at half time, Stockwood struggled with discipline in the second period. Nathan Atkin was yellow carded at the start of the half and, following a series of technical offences, both Harry Bishop and Casey Waterfield were sin-binned leaving them at one stage down to 13 men.

It proved too big a challenge as Stamford ran out comfortable winners but Stockwood will be looking to the new year and a local derby at home against Bedford Queens on January 5th as a chance to build on their 5th place in the league.

Luton will go into the new year looking towards the top of the London One North Division table rather than the bottom after a promising first half of the season.

With director of rugby Paul Allen and a new coaching staff coming in at the start of the season, there was a three year plan put in place to take the club forward.

After opening the campaign with two defeats, it looked like a tough season was ahead but, on the back of some excellent home form, Luton find themselves in 6th place with a chance to build after the festive period.

"Promotion may be out of our reach but we can certainly push for 3rd or 4th place," said Luton manager Mark Turner. "We've got a great team spirit and if we

can improve our away form there's no reason we can't move up the table."

Dunstablians had their top of the table Midlands Division 2 East (South) clash against Bugbrooke postponed and will be looking to the rearranged fixture as a chance to prove their promotion credentials.

Sitting third in the table, Dunstablians are confident going into the new year and will be looking forward to seeing their key players back from injury.

"It's been tough not having our first choice side available," said prop Simon George.

"We've been missing most of our regular back row at one point or another but, hopefully with today's postponement, we can get everyone back to full fitness."

"We've now played every team once and are doing really well in the league."

"We also had our best National Cup run for a few years so the team is full of confidence for 2013."



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'I feel for the fans' says boss

FOOTBALL

BY LAUREN ARCHHELL
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HATERS boss Paul Buckle feels sympathy for the fans who are being left out of pocket by 11th-hour postponements, believing a winter break would help provide more structure to the season.

Luton had a game called off for the second time in a month yesterday when AFC Telford deemed their pitch was unplayable following persistent rain.

The postponement, which comes just four weeks after the FA Trophy game at Dorchester Town was called off, will add further congestion to Luton's already hectic schedule.

The Hatters are gunning for promotion and still in the FA Cup and FA Trophy. Buckle will not be losing too much sleep at bowing out of the Bedfordshire Senior Cup in midweek.

Buckle knows fans are having to dig deep at an expensive time of the year and in a time of austerity.

"Football is an expensive game and I'm sure there will have been fans who had already set off or paid money to get there even though Telford, to their credit, called the game off early," Buckle said.

"But it will no doubt happen again, when people have booked time off work to travel to a Tuesday night away game, and no-one ends up being reimbursed for their troubles.

"It isn't fair to the fans that spend a lot of hard-earned money supporting the club. I think the weather in this country definitely lends itself to having a scheduled winter break.

"I think it would make sense to have some time off so everyone knows where they stand."

One consolation from yesterday's postponement for Buckle was it that provides Andre Gray with extra time to shake off a calf problem.

"A couple of extra days rest will do Andre no harm," Buckle said. "He's such a crucial player for us."

■ Luton v Woking, Boxing Day, 3pm

PLENTY TO PONDER: Paul Buckle suffered the disappointment of another postponement yesterday

Picture: Gareth Owen



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